

Appraisal won't come cheap

The first major speech by an incoming minister of state is always an occasion worth watching. Mrs Rumbold's visit to the National Association of Inspectors and Educational Advisers last week was the first chance for her to show her mettle and meet head on the misgivings of those who regretted the departure of her predecessor, Mr Chris Patten.

Mrs Rumbold came armed with her own speech (page 14) not a departmental draft. This was a strong point in her favour. So, too, was her background knowledge and understanding. Many holders of her office, however enthusiastically they throw themselves into their duties, never accumulate the essential awareness of how the system works which can only be acquired the hard way by someone who in her own words "served on an education committee for nine years". . . was chairman of a local education authority, and of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' Education Committee and of the CLEA and who has "spent many an hour sitting in Burnham committees".

The brief newspaper reports which have appeared elsewhere failed to convey the positive and encouraging tenor of her words. She was refreshingly optimistic about the Coventry accord, while properly stressing the truth that the agreement was only a beginning - "clear on pay and a little bit short in the firm details of what a teacher should do for that pay".

The coming weeks will test her optimism, and the wisdom and sense of responsibility of the negotiators. It would be tragic if things fell apart now. There are plenty of indications that this could happen unless rapid progress is made which creates the momentum necessary to carry it through to success.

Much of Mrs Rumbold's speech was devoted to appraisal. Proposals for the batch of pilot schemes for which provision was made in the Coventry document were due to reach the local authority associations by September 19 and the DES will soon decide which are to go ahead. Mrs Rumbold had no illusions at all about the complexity of the tasks which would have to be performed if a sound appraisal scheme were to go forward. She quoted several times from Duncan Graham's Suffolk study, stressing the demands which would be made on the time of senior staff and the costs implicit in any attempt to do the appraisal job properly. In particular she underlined the need for time-consuming classroom observation and the need to avoid relying on assessment by a single person in reaching an appraisal.

Appraisal can be a tool in ill-run stuff development which could benefit the education service - the pupils and the teachers alike. It might introduce a bit more rationality into promotion procedures, but only if there is a frank acceptance that "staff development" - in the service of which appraisal is

accepted - extends to career planning and appointments.

It is one thing to point out that appraisal is unlikely to provide the kind of evidence which local authorities could use to dismiss an incompetent teacher. It is quite another to pretend that assessments made in the course of an appraisal process should be concealed from those responsible for selecting candidates for a senior post.

But, clearly, there is a long way to go before what Sir Keith Joseph in an exemplary phrase called a "sensitively worked out scheme, carefully introduced and embodying adequate safeguards for the individual", is in place on a regular basis throughout the system. The pilot projects will show how difficult it will be to meet the prescription Sir Keith has laid down - difficult, but not impossible - when it comes to the nuts and bolts. And, as Mrs Rumbold noted, the pilot schemes "should give us a clearer idea of how much it will cost. And it will cost something: I learned years ago that everything costs something. You can take it from me that the Government will be under no illusions about the time and manpower elements of appraisal, nor about the price that is attached to the package". Bravely said; perhaps such bravery is something a minister can only show at the outset of her period of office. Will this and future governments live up to this promise? It requires a lot of faith to believe that they will.

COMMENT

Parents on the board

Reports on pages 24 and 25 illustrate the double irony of the position in which many parent governors find themselves. Though they are usually the first to hear of parents' grievances, the new brand of governor Sir Keith Joseph hoped would provide a cutting edge to consumer power often proves to be the least well equipped to cut through governing bodies' complacencies.

Those parent governors who arrive at their first meeting with little knowledge of formal committee procedure, and less of the way the education service is run, seem to make little impression on the organized ranks of political appointees, the stonewalling of headteachers and the detached conservatism of local worthies who seem simply intent on giving the headteacher an easy life.

The second great irony is that the election of parent governors - regarded by many headteachers as potential thorns in the side - is entrusted to none other than those same headteachers. Both the 1980 Act, and the Bill now before Parliament, which puts the numbers of parent governors on an equal footing with local authority appointees, leave many of the details of those elections to local authorities who in turn delegate them to heads.

There is no requirement for the call for nominations to be preceded by any sort of information for parents who may only be dimly aware of the existence of governors, let alone their precise functions. So is it any wonder that few volunteers are forthcoming, even for the small number of posts for parents on existing governing bodies?

Elections are often dispensed with simply because there is no contest, leaving headteachers open to accusations that they are able to fix the nominations. Given the impression they may have gained that the previous Secretary of State for Education was intent on setting up governing bodies as a latter-day inquisition, it would be hardly surprising if heads failed to throw themselves wholeheartedly into consciousness-raising among parents.

It is easy to say, heads should organize hustings, but to do so is to put

their jobs in the line if their own performance is, implicitly or explicitly, among the issues likely to be debated by the candidates. So even when elections do take place, parents rarely have any opportunity to learn who the competing candidates are and what they stand for, making a mockery of the idea that parent governors are representative.

There is a marked reluctance on the part of the Government, and of some local authorities, to lay down precise electoral arrangements. This reticence may stem in part from the realization that different areas may require different procedures. But it may also be an elementary refusal to face the proper costs of democracy.

With a few honourable exceptions, the preparation and training of governors by most local authorities ranges from inadequate to non-existent. But if parent governors are supposed to provide a fresh, lay consumer's insight to offset the collusion that sometimes exists between professional teachers and the local politicians, is an induction provided by the local authority the answer?

If there is ever to be any hope that parents will provide an independent, thoughtful and progressive voice in governing bodies, they need to find support from among themselves and from more disinterested sources. The hopeful signs that this could happen are there in the associations of parent governors that have sprung up spontaneously in some areas and in the far-sighted initiative of the National Association of Governors and Managers which is pioneering induction training for parent governors.

Domesday machine

The Domesday Project was launched on a wave of enthusiasm at the end of 1984. The intentions were good: to create a 20th-century version of 11th-century technology of Domesday to coincide with its 900th anniversary; but also to advance that technology and involve schoolchildren at a local level.

And certainly the technology was there: interactive video with the capacity to hold vast amounts of information in many forms which can be easily accessed. In a brilliant year for



modern Domesday.

However, from the beginning there were sceptics: the timing was extremely tight (and seems unlikely to be met); the choice of system was criticized, as was the BBC's assumption that their system would set a standard when slow but serious research was going on elsewhere, notably under the auspices of the National Interactive Video Centre. And it was said that the cost would be too high.

However, doubts were quelled. 12,500 of the 14,000 schools who volunteered to collect information have delivered it, and a new system is going to be launched which is allegedly a technical breakthrough.

As the deadline draws near, there are signs that this episode in the BBC's love affair with high technology is not going to be an altogether happy one. The cost of the system looks likely to be at least twice what was originally hoped and there is so far no sign that the Department of Trade and Industry will increase its software subsidy of £215.

But even if the schools could afford the money, there is some doubt about whether they would be wise to. As Mr. Morgan argues on page 34 that "advanced interactive video" is not really "IV" at all, "it is a brilliantly large silent database". Other systems may fulfil better the educational role

The German experience

"The most important fact to bear in mind about the Federal Republic's system of assessment generally and about the *Abitur* in particular is that for the Federal Republic it works." Not a particularly bold verdict but then, the HMI's report on aspects of the curriculum in West Germany (page 18), is at pains to stress the obvious limitations of their study. They only spent 60 HMI-days on the field-work (in recent years secondary school inspection occupies 100 HMI-days). They are sceptical about the transferability of custom and practice from one system to another, but they couldn't help noticing that things seem to go pretty smoothly.

Somewhat wistfully they noted the strong consensus which underpins the German methods of curriculum definition and development and the assumptions built into professional training and practice which give coherence and dependability to the relatively crude six-point-scale used for the *Abitur* and other examinations. They cannot help comparing the German system of internal examinations favourably with the elaborate arrangements for examinations to which the English have been accustomed. Under the German arrangements "the curriculum is in the lead". What the English now try to do by an elaborate examinations bureaucracy, the Germans achieve by developing curriculum guidelines and making assessment an important element in teacher training.

There were other, more primitive attractions, too. "Assessment carried out predominantly by the pupils' teachers, even with varying measures of external contact, is clearly cheaper than our own examinations industry. But it is only low-cost when seen in isolation, for it exists within an otherwise high-cost system of expensively trained and well-paid teachers working in high quality and well-maintained buildings, and teaching carefully developed curricula in which much time, money and corporate effort have been invested (our italics). Plenty of food for thought there - especially at a time when the cost of examinations is about to go through the roof.

Second opinion

Seamless robe of training

In spite of appearances this has developed between the Ministry of Education and the Department of Technical and Vocational Initiatives.

According to the DES, the MSC should be regarded as a whole. He sees them all as vast tapestry his organization in which each segment is the pattern of a technical work-force almost from the grave. It is a grand everything has to fit into the unenviable and often the education service which is more venerable than the

johnny-come-lately, now Commission and has its own Youth Training Scheme - both of which cater for the Commission wants to closer together, the DES sceptical and does not see Mr Holland is annoyed.

This is a very strange adopt, not of course in general, Mr Holland's grandiose future, but now in policy on the whole fields and training was laid down as the summer in the Working Together presents the Departments of Education. In this there are distinct chapters on TVET careful reading of which indicates of my linkage close one, between the elements. One is treated as the operation within the operation, the other as an entirely within their control and the YTS were being part of a seamless robe of Working Together was to explain the linkages.

Indeed, the separate development are indirectly the role envisaged for the Pre-vocational Education in vocational year . . . which come an important route to TVET is not on a par with the four-year 14 to 18 course level altogether. It is difficult how part of a continuous which is itself supposed to be linked to the rest of the curriculum have anything but the relationship with the YTS serves 16-year-old unemployed leavers in the main, and vocational components have been crowning glory.

But Mr Holland, clearly the battle on the issue between the DES and the MSC that preceded the publication of *Working Together*, does not give up. After all, his Holland has many battles with the DES. Why shouldn't he win this one?

Max Morris is chairman of the Regional Examinations Board for Teachers.

... NO COMMENT

"Dear Mrs. . . . report was very good."

Aerial view: King Edward VI College in Totnes, Devon, has installed a six-foot satellite dish installed on its library roof. The school is the first of seven to be linked by satellite as part of a project co-ordinated by the Science and Technology Regional Organization, based at Plymouth Polytechnic. The school can now tune into 13 channels from Europe and America. Once the second stage of the project is underway, the school will be able to produce its transmissions that can be received by other schools both in the UK and abroad. Pictured are Mr Roger Giles, a technician from the poly, and sixth-formers Will Dean and Mandy Hayter.

NEWS

Cambridge facing major cash crisis

by Jeremy Sutcliffe

Cambridge University is threatened with the closure of whole departments and serious weakening of its academic status, according to the vice-chancellor, Lord Adrian, Master of Pembroke College.

He warned that the university's financial outlook was possibly even worse than the extremely difficult position it had been up against for years.

It was facing a 4 per cent real-term cut in funding during 1986-87, and the prospect of a 10 per cent reduction by the end of the decade.

Although Lord Adrian did not spell out the amount of savings that would have to be made, it is understood to be of the order of £10 million by 1990. In his annual report to the university, he warned that economies in previous years have left little scope for savings.

"We may well have to close down complete areas of work and all of us will be faced with very hard choices in the months ahead," he said.

The search for cuts might even fall on large departments or faculties which the Government wished to be supported.

He warned that persistent financial problems could "seriously weaken the academic standing of the university, both in teaching and research."

Salary levels had also generally fallen below the rates paid to other professions, causing serious concern about recruitment, he said.

The university's general board, the supervisory body, has asked faculties to assess what savings they could make

to meet the planned cuts in funding. Lord Adrian said economies would have to be looked for in large departments and faculties with relatively high staff-student ratios. The university would also have to take into account the Government's desire for a continuing shift towards science, technology and engineering, he said.

So it seems likely that the university will try to protect small departments and let the larger ones bear the brunt of any reductions. Given the university's wish to expand science and technology, the squeeze would most likely be made in the humanities and social sciences.

Lord Adrian was "angry" at the financial position the university had been placed in.

His ire was not only directed at the shortage of Government money, but also at "the ceaselessly shifting rules of the game" university administrators had to play, and at the erosion of their ability to control their own affairs.

"We are told that we must manage our affairs more efficiently, but most of the effective levers of management are not in our hands," he said. Last week, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, pledged at a vice-chancellors' conference in Edinburgh to expand student numbers in the universities, but has so far given no firm commitment to reverse the Government's current policy of reducing university expenditure by 2 per cent for the next two years.

An announcement is expected in the Chancellor's autumn statement on public expenditure next month.

James Meikle on a cherished ideal which is making some headway after nearly two decades of discussions - the establishment of a General Teaching Council for England and Wales

Framework agreed for self-regulation scheme

Representatives of 17 teacher organizations and other interested bodies have agreed a broad framework for setting up a General Teaching Council (GTC) for England and Wales.

Their proposals cover entry to the profession, standards of training, advice to the Government on supply of teachers, the granting of licences to teach, discipline and professional conduct, research, and promotion and public relations.

The General Teaching Council proposed would be a statutory independent body and would assume powers and functions held at present by the Department of Education and Science, including recognition, approval of probation and withdrawal of qualified status.

It would also take over the jobs of DES-supported advisory bodies such as the appointed Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The launch of a consultative paper on a GTC represents a significant step forward, after assurances that its functions would not clash with union responsibilities on pay and conditions and interfere in local bargaining and disciplinary procedures agreed with the local authority employers.

There has been long debate about a GTC's involvement in further education, higher education, youth and community work and areas of development in vocational training across the 16 to 19 age range.

Education officers, advisers, Her Majesty's Inspectorate and other professionals in the education service are likely to be drawn into discussions of how the governing body should be constituted have been set on one side, but the organizations involved agree that its governing body should have a clear majority of registered teachers, that no one organization should represent a majority, and that teacher-training institutions, central and local government, parents, governors and employers should also be represented.

The latest proposals stem from a series of talks in a working group set up by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers.

The long-term aim is to set up a body to oversee the education service, through the first stage of registration and licensing. In public and independent sectors is likely to concentrate on

those who teach in schools and those who train the teachers. Executives of the participant organizations are being asked to confirm support for the proposals by early next year although the GTC package will probably also go to conferences of the memberships next year as the campaign to gain the support of the profession and the public is stepped up.

Formal approaches are unlikely to be made to the Government until there is widespread unity on the issue. The

could be sought to finance research. The General Teaching Council for Scotland, set up in 1966, costs about £250,000 a year to run, and is financed through a £40,000 Government grant and £3-a-year registration fees which are expected to rise soon.

But its functions are not as wide as those proposed for a GTC in England and Wales, particularly in research, international work and public relations.

It also only governs the work of 80,000 teachers. The proposals being discussed south of the Border affect nearly 500,000 people.

The concept of a self-governing teaching profession has been long cherished. Recommendations about the constitution and functions of a GTC were made in the 1970 Weaver Report but stopped short of entrusting full responsibility of advising on teacher training and supply to such a council.

A number of subsequent attempts to get discussions off the ground faltered, partly as a result of rivalries between organizations. The chances of lasting consensus now seem better, as those taking part seek to lift both the confidence of those they represent and improve the image of the education service in the eyes of the public.

One of the people involved in the talks so far said: "There are a lot of hurdles still to overcome but we are at the starting gate."

The organizations involved in the talks are the: Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, Association of Principals of Colleges, Association of University Teachers, College of Preceptors, Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, Girls' School Association, "Headmasters' Conference, National Association of Head Teachers, National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, National Union of Education, Polytechnics Council for the Education of Teachers, Professional Association of Teachers, Secondary Heads Association, Standing Conference on the Education and Training of Teachers in the Public Sector, Standing Conference of Principals and Heads of Institutes of Higher Education, Universities Council for the Education of Teachers.

DES seems happy to wait and see what is involved in the final package.

The Government would be asked to provide a grant to set up a GTC, which would have its own secretariat, but other costs would be borne from charging registration fees. Extra grants

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With a new Government initiative rumoured, John Hudson recalls a puzzling episode in post-1944 history

Whatever happened to technical schools?

It is reported that the Government is considering setting up, under its own control, a certain number of secondary schools to offer a specifically technical education. Certainly ministers have given many indications of their commitment to improving the technical and vocational preparation available in schools, and public opinion seems to support them. Some whose educational memories go back to the immediate post-war years may wonder whatever happened to the secondary technical schools, which were then expected to become an important component of the maintained educational system.

The critical period is the 20 years from 1945 to 1965. Thereafter the policy of abolishing selection in secondary education was as incompatible with the retention of the selective technical school as the grammar school; but the table below suggests that by 1965 the battle was already lost.

Yet the guidance which issued in generous measure from the Ministry of Education about the implementation of the 1944 Education Act envisaged that the general pattern of organization to be adopted by most local education authorities would consist of three-quarters of the population, with

selective grammar and technical schools, in roughly equal proportions, for the remainder.

Whether or not the underlying educational thinking (which owed a good deal to the Norwood Report) was sound, many I.E.A.s did prepare development plans on these lines. I cannot recall any policy decision before 1965 to curtail the development of technical schools. But they disappeared from the educational scene as completely and as mysteriously as the dinosaurs from the fossil record. Why?

In the first place, whatever their justification in educational theory, they started in practice from a position of weakness. Before 1944, senior elementary schools offered at best a modest introduction to manual craft skills. A few selective central schools had more ambitious technical or commercial programmes, but in the main the technical tradition was enshrined in the junior technical schools (JTS), closely linked with the technical colleges of which they were, in a sense, the offshoots.

The JTS were not well-equipped to be the growing points of a dynamic technical sector in secondary education. Since they recruited at the age of 13, they lacked experience of the development of a full secondary course, they had no sixth forms, did not prepare pupils for the prized secondary school examinations; neither the schools themselves nor their teachers enjoyed the public esteem of the grammar schools.

A commitment to technical education was not wanting, either in the Ministry itself, or in the educational world outside, but it was directed mainly towards the technical colleges, and particularly to the development of full-time and sandwich courses at higher level.

This important and successful initiative absorbed the energies, during the critical years, of most of those in the ministry, and to a great extent in the



Secondary technical schools - weakly transplants competing with more vigorous growths

educational world outside, who had the greatest experience of, and interest in, technical education.

In contrast, the JTS, detached from their parent colleges, and therefore from the support of their most influential patrons, by the rigid distinction which the 1944 Act made between secondary and further education, found themselves strangers in the secondary world dominated by the prestige and influence of the grammar schools.

Furthermore, virtually all the higher echelons of educational administration, both centrally and locally, had been recruited almost inescapably from the products of the grammar school/university tradition, and while many were convinced of the need to develop a genuine secondary education of a non-academic kind, particularly for the less able, a clear vision of the distinctive ethos of a technical school for the able was lacking.

Two incidents stick in my mind; the first, when the responsible staff inspection, asked in the course of an internal meeting about his concept of the secondary technical school without Latin; and on another occasion a senior inspector said that the technical school should use its vocational orientation to stimulate the motivation of its pupils, and then provide them with a good general education. These

were not cynical views, and I do not mean to disparage those who held them.

Even the parameters of the school building programme conspired to load the dice against the secondary technical school. The existing grammar schools had premises of varying suitability; almost all JTS buildings were deplorably limited. But in the early post-war years, secondary school building was authorized only for "roofs over heads" and consisted overwhelmingly of secondary modern schools; very few buildings were allowed for selective schools.

To sum up, the early secondary technical schools were weakly transplants competing with more vigorous, established growths. They would have flourished only if there had been a prompt, vigorous and clear-headed policy to encourage them. In the event they languished, and after 1965 went out with scarcely a whimper. (Can anyone recall a crusade to rescue technical schools of proven merit?)

What was more serious was that, unlike the more successful secondary modern schools, they did not leave a legacy of much value to their comprehensive successors.

In a wider sense, perhaps they were casualties of a dichotomy which has long raged in English educational history. Many thoughtful people were exercised about efficiencies in techni-

cal education in the 19th century. In 1837 the government provided funding for a school of design, developed into the Design Science and Art at South Kensington, which continued throughout the century, but as a separate organization from the main education system.

In 1899 the Board of Education brought both departments under the board, but left the teachers in technical, art and colleges differed both primary and secondary training, experience, and status, so were HMIs divided "TCA" and "PS".

To some extent, they got on all right. As soon as the news got out that the next Labour government would nationalize public schools the Isle of Man - visible on a clear day from Blackpool - invited the schools to set up shop over there. After all, public schools and Manx land have something in common: neither of them has abolished corporal punishment. And just think about how up-market its tourist trade would become. A far cry from the TT racing crowd.

The separateness of the two systems may have been both a strength in the development of university higher education, and an obstacle to the penetration of technological and vocational into secondary education.

This is necessarily a personal view based on recollections of the Education during the 1940s. A view from a technical school, for example, throws a different light on the situation, a rather puzzling one, educational history.

John Hudson was a Deputy Director in the Department of Education from 1969 to 1980.

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Shadow play

Despite continuous rumours of Giles Radice's imminent demise, it seems that Labour's shadow education spokesman's future is secure. Speculation at one time reached the "not when will he go" but "who will replace him?" stage.

Names such as Jack Straw and Jack Cunningham were bandied about. But Straw first has to catch his shadow seat and Cunningham seems devoted to the (albeit nuclear) environment.

Attention then switched to the chubby figure of Frank Dobson, the health spokesman and a former member of the shadow education team. Whispers grew more volatile when Chris Price, one-time MP, now director of Leeds Polytechnic, was spotted dining with Dobson and Straw on Monday.

But insiders now say Radice is assured of his place as long as he gets enough votes in this month's elections for the shadow cabinet, and on past record he will.

However, a change is in the wind. Andrew Bennett, higher education spokesman, is expected to be replaced by Derek Fatchett, MP for Leeds Central.

Manx tale

It's an ill wind... As soon as the news got out that the next Labour government would nationalize public schools the Isle of Man - visible on a clear day from Blackpool - invited the schools to set up shop over there. After all, public schools and Manx land have something in common: neither of them has abolished corporal punishment. And just think about how up-market its tourist trade would become. A far cry from the TT racing crowd.

Poly planners

It is always wise to decide strategy before meeting any Education Secretary, let alone Kenneth Baker, with his reputation as a sharp operator. So thought the caucus of left-wing polytechnic directors before they met him at 8.15am today. But where to plot and plant? Not foot from the Labour Party conference, the buffet at Waterloo station would surely be convenient and ideologically sound. But no, they decided on the Waldorf.

Creeping motion

Students of the cook-up rather than the conspiracy theory of history would relish the tale behind the infamous composite motion which caused all the trouble in Monday's education debate. It transpired that the controversial clause calling for the nationalisation of public schools wasn't there at all in any of the original motions. Somehow it crept in during the lengthy composing process. One of the culprits confessed later that she wished they hadn't included it after all.

Balliol boy

During the largely lacklustre education debate, one Matthew Light, a school-leaver from Beaconsfield, argued for less restrictive entry qualifications to university. He's off to Balliol next week. "I am lucky - I've got a good brain," he remarked in mitigation. The instant response of one party official was that Roy Hattersley has been going to say that for years.

Delegates reject leaders' policy on public schools

Labour

Barry Hugill and Diane Spencer report from the Labour Party conference in Blackpool

probably would have done before Mrs. Morrell's intervention.

During a rousing oration she claimed that Labour had won a landslide victory in the ILEA elections on a programme identical to that proposed in the resolution. She accused the leadership of "timidity" for opposing it. One of Mr Radice's aides said after the debate that it was "news to me" that Labour had fought an election on a promise to phase out sixth forms.

Another added that he was not aware that nationalization of the public schools had loomed large as an issue in the ILEA elections.

Mr Stephen Benn, who chairs the ILEA general purposes sub-committee, said later that Mrs Morrell had used "poetic licence". The ILEA Labour group at its recent weekend

Competition hots up to be batting for England

Labour, the party of achievement, of standards, of quality... and of competitive sport. It was a slender for Mr Kenneth Baker to blame Labour's education policy for the lamentable performance of England's cricket and football teams.

So said Ms Kate Hoey, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Dulwich, moving a motion which called for the scrapping of the examination system and its replacement by a scheme of personal profiling and records of achievement.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the conference agreed with her and the resolution was easily carried - as was one pledging the next Labour government to bring the Manpower Services Commission under "direct democratic control of the people it is supposed to serve".

Apart from the controversial pledge to nationalize public schools and phase out sixth forms, Labour would implement most of the motion's items in government.

This would mean that, in future, all prisoners would be guaranteed a right to education and the Department of Education and Science would be placed under an obligation to provide it.

Local authorities would have a duty to provide pupils with hot meals at lunchtime and would have to ensure adequate nursery and pre-school provision.

Whites 'leaving black schools'

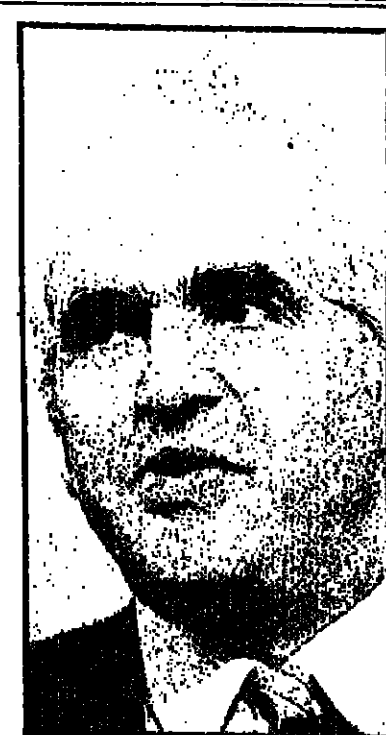
Many white parents are withdrawing their children from state schools because they do not want them to be taught alongside blacks, Mr Eric Robinson, director of Lancashire Polytechnic, told a conference fringe meeting on Tuesday.

The independent sector was growing for this reason, he said.

Mr Robinson, who until recently worked in Bradford where there are large numbers of Asian pupils, said he had seen the phenomenon in that city. He admitted, however, that he had no firm evidence on which to base his opinion.



Frances Morrell: accused leadership of timidity



Giles Radice: would ignore nationalization call

conference at Somerville College, Oxford had committed itself to tertiary colleges for London, he explained.

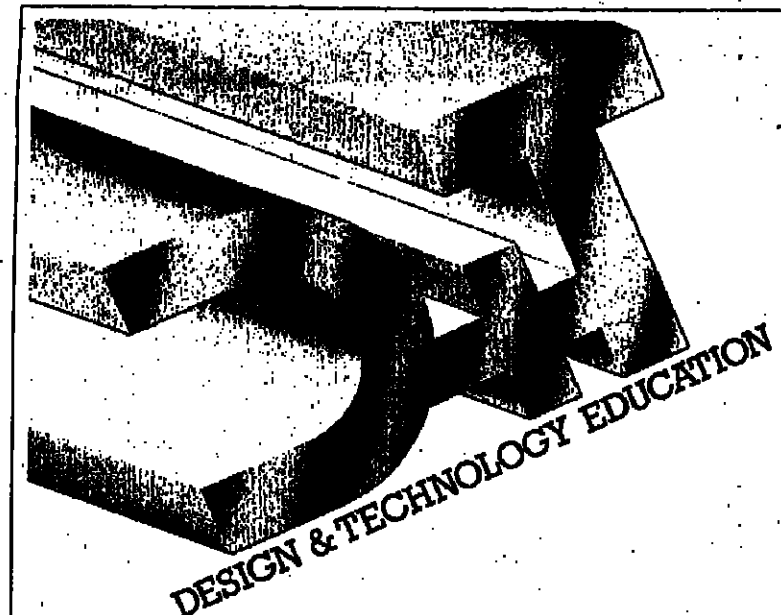
Mr Radice should have no difficulties in ignoring the resolution. Under Labour's constitution a resolution must receive a two third majority on a card vote before it can be included in the general election manifesto. The mover of the resolution, Ms Joanna Tait, of the Socialist Education Association, failed to call for a card vote.

Support for independent schools among Labour voters has increased from 56 per cent to 58 per cent in the past year, according to a public opinion poll. Among trade unionists in the

same period support rose from 69 to 70 per cent, *Bert Lodge writes*.

"Overall support among the electorate for independent schools stands at 73 per cent," Mr David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), said this week. "The proportion of Labour voters who think independent schools should be abolished is lower than at any time since 1977."

ISIS commissioned the poll conducted by Mori-Market Opinion and Research International. Altogether 1,907 people aged 18 and over were interviewed in their homes in 169 sampling points throughout Great Britain between August 15-19.



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Over 100 exhibits covering manufacturers' colleges and educational institutions showing the latest equipment and films on date all age ranges will be covered with seminars and films on date. Information and advice will be covered with seminars and films on date. Official opening at 11.00am on 21st October by Lord Young, Secretary of State. Open 9.30 to 5.30 with a LATE NIGHT WEDNESDAY until 7.00. By prior arrangement school parties, and sixth formers are welcome (no general school parties).

Trial elected

The 37-year-old headmaster of an independent grammar school elected trial by jury at Barnet magistrates court on Monday where he was accused of assaulting a 13-year-old boy pupil during a caning incident.

Mr John Pearman, head of the £1,300 a year Friern Barnet grammar school, allegedly assaulted the boy, causing him actual bodily harm at the school on July 17. He was committed for trial on unconditional bail to Ward Green Crown Court.

Aid for elderly

Age Concern is urging education and leisure services to provide more information to elderly people with the help of two leaflets published this week.

In the picture with Age Concern and A guide to information services for elderly people, are available free, from the Public Health Department, Age Concern, 67 Priory Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3LE.

Guide to 'commuter belt' schools is published

A new guide to schools in "London's Commuterland" is published this week. It lists all schools in the outer London boroughs and the Home Counties - but leaves out the Inner London Education Authority.

The author, John Howson, has listed O and A level examination results, and given details about the exam boards used; the percentage of mathematics O-level or CSE grade 1; and the size of A level teaching groups. Other facts given are size of intake, higher education and the type of computers used in the school.

By no means all schools sent all the information requested, and the guide warns parents about the limited value of trying to compare exam results to

different schools.

The guide gives details of how the curriculum is organized, where there is mixed ability teaching, and information about uniform and extra-curricular activities.

Mr Howson has taught in a Haringey school, and in teacher training. The idea came to him when he was himself commuting to Durham, and talking to people on trains. Several were moving to London and wondering where they should live.

Schools were a big factor in their decision - but they were finding it impossible to get the sort of information they wanted.

The Parents' Guide to Secondary Schools in London's Commuterland by John Howson, Macmillan, £5.95.



Change of direction: Mr Howson, new director of education in north London borough of Haringey, is pictured here last month. Mr Howson, director of education in north London borough of Haringey, is pictured here last month. Mr Howson, director of education in north London borough of Haringey, is pictured here last month.

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Schools get draft AS syllabuses

The first draft syllabuses for the new Advanced Supplementary examination were sent out to 3,000 schools earlier this week.

The Associated Examining Board is seeking comments on AS level syllabuses in 17 subjects.

Designed for full-time A level students who want to broaden their education, but covering only half the ground, the syllabuses vary in their comparability with existing A levels.

In subjects such as history, A and AS level are almost identical except for the requirement that AS level candidates should sit fewer papers.

Physics, developed in part from the board's A level syllabus, is produced as a coherent package which can stand alone. The AS syllabus provides for the teacher assessment of skills such as problem analysis, design, and the making of valid deductions.

Current trends towards the use of more relevant, up-to-date material are evident in subjects such as French and English. The latter, linked to the AEB's language and literature A level, includes in its specimen paper a magazine article about poverty in Britain and an advertisement by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Candidates are asked to analyse the article and to react to the advertisement.

The English as well as the English literature AS syllabuses allow for books to be taken into the examination room. The syllabuses, intended for examination in 1989, have yet to be approved by the Secondary Examinations Council.

Why pupils would rather not talk in class

by Annette Gartland

Class discussions are unpopular with many pupils, according to a new survey.

Small group discussion, though mildly enjoyed as an activity, came bottom in an assessment of pupils' responses to various classroom experiences. Whole class discussion only just had the edge over "listening to the teacher explaining".

The survey, carried out in Groby, Leicestershire, by Mr Pat Jones, while at Bosworth College, Leicestershire, during 1985/6, revealed that second and third-year pupils favoured watching television or listening to the radio, and practical or project work - from both the enjoyment and learning viewpoint.

Although pupils did not really enjoy the traditional activities of reading, writing and listening to the teacher they rated them highly as ways of learning.

The "Groby Oracy Project" involved a detailed survey of 52 pupils and, on the basis of their replies to questionnaires, 21 were selected for individual and group interviews.

Pupils found small group discussions a more relaxed and natural experience than whole class debates. They spoke more and were less likely to be dominated by one or two people who did all

the talking.

The pupils' most frequent complaint was that both types of discussion were spoiled by some people "messing around".

"The finding that pupils feel they learn more in whole class discussions is partly caused by their worries about control," said Mr Jones. "At least in the whole class discussion the teacher is there to try to do something about pupils who spoil things."

Twenty-seven pupils admitted to feeling embarrassed when speaking in a full class, compared with seven embarrassed in small group discussion. Twenty-nine admitted they often lost concentration and stopped listening in whole class discussions.

"Our general impression was that these 12 and 13-year-olds had a very serious and responsible attitude to learning," said Mr Jones.

Teachers, he added, should not be put off promoting class discussions. Pupils needed to be put in small groups with friends who would take each other relatively seriously and teachers could move on from fairly simple, achievable tasks to more complex, open and extended activities.

Focusing on an end result for the discussion, like a poster or tape recording, could help get pupils talking.



Horn of plenty: The Inner London Education Authority may be giving out schools a £250,000 boost next year - as announced last week - already thriving in many of them. A member of the ILEA's Schools Symphony Orchestra is pictured during a concert at the Royal Festival Hall. They attended by the Italian Ambassador, included three young Italian models and was the latest in a series of cultural exchanges.

Catholics still lose out in job market

by Carmel McQuaid

The gap in academic attainment between Protestant and Catholic school-leavers in Northern Ireland has progressively narrowed, with little difference in results when schools of the same type are compared.

The trend among Protestants to opt overwhelmingly for grammar schools is helping perpetuate the pattern where they record better O and A level exam results than Catholics - thus gaining an advantage in the job market.

A consultative paper on equality of opportunity in employment, launched by Mr Tom King, Northern Ireland Secretary of State, shows that when the 1984 grammar school intake was surveyed, fee-payers accounted for only 3 per cent in Catholic grammar schools but 8 per cent in the Protestant sector.

Protestants also feature more in the review system for entry to grammar schools after the age of 11. Twice as many Catholics as Protestants opt not to take up grammar school places.

While the number of Catholics entering grammar schools is consistent with their proportion in the transfer age group, the document considers the movement between secondary and grammar schools in the Protestant sector "significantly disproportionate".

It adds: "Within the grammar and secondary sectors separately, Catholic pupils attain similar levels of academic achievement as Protestant pupils. However, overall, Catholic pupils fall behind Protestant pupils relatively due to the imbalance between the numbers of Catholics and Protestants attending grammar schools."

This differential is reflected in the qualifications each group of school-leavers bring to the labour market. In 1984 almost 20 per cent of Protestant school-leavers had two or more A levels, compared with just under 17 per cent of Catholics. While 18 per cent of Protestants left school without any GCE/CSB qualifications, the figure for Catholics was almost 25 per cent.

Differences in subject choices were also noted. Protestant opted for

particularly those in girls' schools and humanities, in A level science was studied by 30 per cent of Protestant pupils, compared with 10 per cent of Catholics. On the other hand, 46 per cent of Catholic pupils studied arts A levels compared with 10 per cent of Protestants.

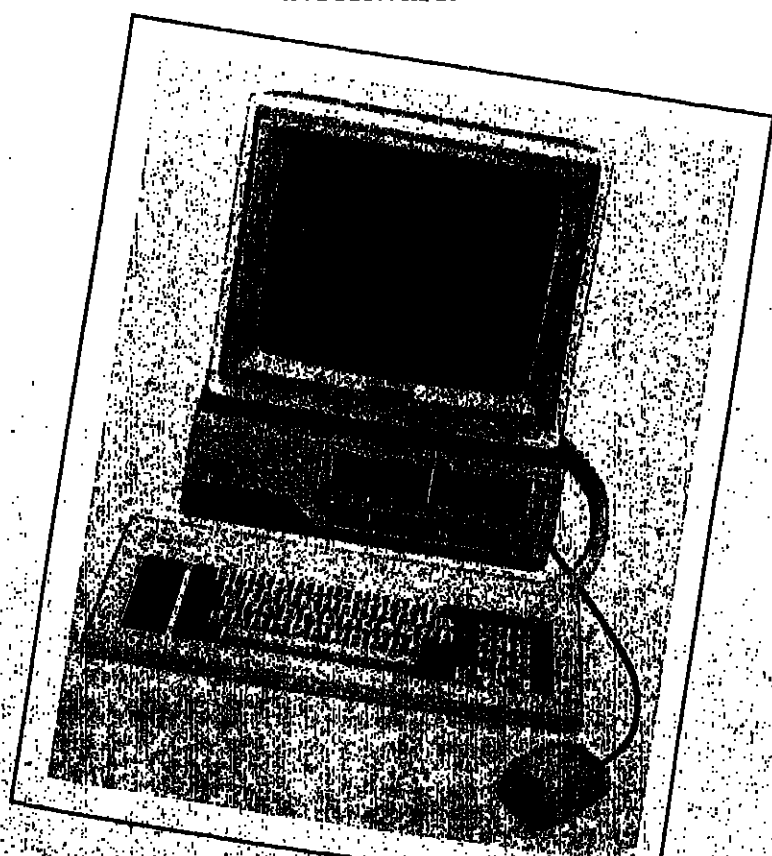
The document, which has been introduced as a preliminary to a Commission on Employment Equality, states that Catholic and Protestant school-leavers experience different degrees of success in the job market. While those with qualifications are equally disadvantaged, Catholics with the same academic attainment as Protestants do not enjoy similar advantages.

"Though some educational differences remain, there has been a convergence in academic attainment at point of entry to the labour market. Despite this, there has been relatively little change in the Catholic share of that market either in quantitative or qualitative terms."



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Julia Hagedorn reports from the National Union of Teachers' primary education conference

Baker urges greater use of attainment targets

Primary education is all too often considered a soft option, Mr Kenneth Baker told the conference.

It was overlooked by the media, policy-makers, and even educators.

But the Secretary of State for Education reminded his audience: "You know that these attitudes are sadly and badly mistaken, and so do I. It is the primary phase that lays the foundation for all later learning."

He nevertheless stressed that much more needed to be done. Science teaching often lacked depth, and there was widespread concern that the basics were being neglected.

Mr Baker said he would like to see the concept of attainment targets for pupils being developed and extended. He believes it would help pupils to achieve the best performance they were capable of.

Vague aims for the curriculum were not enough, he stressed. "The curriculum needs to be planned throughout and written down, and mechanisms need to be established to ensure that policy and practice converge."

He felt that able children were rarely given the extra help and attention they needed to realize their potential. Children should not be allowed to get by with work which was adequate but had cost little effort. "To allow that is to teach them a dangerous lesson."

He urged primary teachers to spread the message to the public, and especially to parents, about their successes. "It is vital that parents and teachers understand, and respect, each other's aims."

Mr Bob Richardson, the president of the National Union of Teachers, said there was genuine concern over whether primary schools could produce the curriculum because of the restraints of resources and class sizes. He was grateful to the Secretary of

State for supplying every primary school with a computer when at the Department of Trade and Industry, "but we would also like some old-fashioned technology - books, pencils and paper - which in some authorities is missing."

He told Mr Baker: "I understand that you are a collector of antiquarian books. There are those in the audience who will tell you where you can find a few million of them."

Professor John Tomlinson, of the University of Warwick's department of education, echoed the feeling of the conference organizers that the time was coming for a renaissance of primary education. But it would only come if the resources were appropriate and adequate.

Children needed a rich and lively environment, and a society which was secure and provided drive and continuity, a sense of purpose and growth.

But the actual position was very different. "We know what we have to work with as teachers, in terms of time and planning, buildings and equipment, is just not adequate. So much of primary education now depends on where you live and what your parents can afford to buy," he said. "We have lost the sense of entitlement to schooling; that access to good primary education was not a privilege but a fundamental right."

There was a need for an enormous boost in teacher numbers. Without that, schools would not be able to deliver the curriculum expected of them. But it was up to teachers to show why this was so. It was not yet accepted by those in power.

From the floor, Ms Susie Burrows, of east London, talked angrily about the reality of being a primary teacher in her area. "If the children do not know how to read and write and do

maths pretty well by the time they are seven, I feel I have failed them. But in our area, there are two supply teachers to cover all Hackney's schools. No teachers will come and work there. Teachers are leaving in droves because of the stress and the pay. There is no non-contact time in our day."

"If I go to children's homes, I go in the evening. Nearly all my children come from one-parent families. There are Asian mothers afraid to go out on the streets, and children attacked on the way home."

She accused the platform speakers of delivering glossy talk and being oblivious of reality. She had five non-English speakers in her class and others with terrible problems. "How do we teach them to be whole human beings unless we have time to talk to them?"

Ms Gwen Hargreaves, from Leeds, said that teachers had pretended to be magicians for too long. Today's children did not expect to be treated as a group, but she asked how teachers could give them individual treatment with more than 30 in a class.

Mr Eric Molyneux, from the Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, called for parents and teachers to forge a partnership to fight for more resources and smaller classes.

Ms Annie Owen, an advisory teacher for mathematics from Kingston, Surrey, said she was ashamed and angry that two of the speakers had said the advisory teacher service as a "sop" for helping the classroom teacher. "When I go into primary schools," she said, "I have to take my own crayons, scissors, paper and equipment."

"The teachers do not have any of the things I need. And I know that, when I go, they cannot take up my ideas even though they would like to."

Baby place: Robert Bryun (left) and Alex Bacon do a dummy run. The centre will allow parents to study alongside teachers and their children enjoy a specially equipped play area with under-fives from local schools and playgroups. It is open to all children under the watchful eye of the early years Inspector, Mrs Jan Tamm, and will be involved with under-fives in the county.

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Edwards ponders cuts of surplus Welsh places

by Iola Smith

Primaries are likely to bear the brunt of cuts if a call for a "sustained effort" to remove surplus school places in Wales is heeded.

The call comes in a report prepared after joint discussions between the Welsh Office, the Welsh Joint Education Committee and local authorities on teacher numbers and school rolls.

The report is now being considered by the Welsh Secretary, Mr Nicholas Edwards, and - if the recommendations are implemented - 40 per cent of surplus capacity in primary and secondary schools will have to be removed.

Mr John Phillips, Dyfed's director of education, states that such a move would result in the loss of "at least 4,600 primary and 2,680 secondary school places" in his county.

During a meeting of the authority's development and finance sub-committee, Mr Phillips pointed out that, if present building stock were not adjusted, there would be 11,500 surplus primary and 6,700 surplus secondary places by 1991.

Existing plans, such as the reorganization of secondary education in four towns and the closure of some small schools should reduce the number of places by 1,500, as would the removal of temporary classrooms. At present, such units contain 4,500 primary and 3,800 secondary places.

But Mr Phillips is adamant that "difficult decisions and the closure of some schools will be required." The governing bodies of all the county's schools are being asked to consider way of reducing surplus places, and their suggestions will subsequently be discussed by the authority.

Mr Ann Conistant, of Old Ford infants' school, east London, says that children adopt racist attitudes from a young age. The results, often overt and appalling, have to be dealt with immediately.

In the current edition of *Child Education*, she recommends involving children in racist issues so that they collaborate and then conclude among themselves that racism is wrong.

Checks special 'deficient'

Local authority checks on the quality of children with learning difficulties are of little use to teachers, says Mrs Julie Ollis, the co-ordinator of the project.

The project, which aims to identify and help schools with deficiencies in their provision for children with learning difficulties, is being run by Mrs Ollis and her colleagues.

Mrs Ollis carried out a survey of local authorities between 1980 and 1981. She found that only 10 per cent of schools had a policy for children with learning difficulties.

Authorities make some provision for new heads settling in, but are not doing enough to help them. Few require outgoing heads to write a detailed report on their schools for their successors. And while pre-employment visits are arranged, most heads in the study managed to spend only one to three days in their new school.

Similar visits are arranged to meet personnel in the central and local authorities.

There appeared to be little understanding of the kind of information to be significant, Mrs Ollis says. In general, she found a lack of understanding about the process of selection and the importance of the selection process.

This, she says, can be an underlying cause of the disappointing results of much of the material.

Mrs Ollis concludes that there is a strong case for emphasizing pre-employment visits and assessment and evaluation of parts of learning and teaching. She says that the failure and decline of children and parents, and the decline of teachers' expectations, are the result of a lack of understanding of the selection process.

The Inner London Education Authority plans to become one of the best providers of nursery education with a £3 million proposal to expand facilities by nearly 1,000 places to 25,000 in 1987-88.

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One in three newly-appointed heads spent the staff by referring back to the school they have left, researchers say in a book to be published early next year.

In *Secondary Headship: The First Years*, a team from the National Foundation for Educational Research surveys nearly 200 newly-appointed heads, together with more than 200 who had been in post three to eight years, and also questions 80 local authorities.

The authors, Dr Dick Weindling and Dr Peter Earley, say: "Many new heads made the error of frequently referring to their previous school in comparison with the new school... frequent reference to the need for change, accompanied by comments as to how well arrangements worked at the head's last school, upset many teachers."

The survey, which began with heads appointed in 1982-83 and ended in the summer of 1984, shows that about 80 per cent of all secondary heads appointed are new to the job, and the majority come from a different authority. The authors conclude: "These two facts taken together show why more attention needs to be given to the induction of the 250 new secondary heads who start each year."

While there was general agreement that the most important learning period was as a deputy head, the research showed most heads did not do enough to prepare their deputies for a headship. It is suggested they should be rotating the deputies' job responsibilities every two or three years to get them used to all aspects of school management.

Another useful exercise for deputies experience with a tinker generation at the new Early Childhood Foundation, the education committee and Leicester University may only one-third of the new heads founding the venture, which is the authority's positive and practical response to the H.M. Inspectors' report that was highly critical of provision for new heads.

The centre will allow parents to study alongside teachers and their children enjoy a specially equipped play area with under-fives from local schools and playgroups. It is open to all children under the watchful eye of the early years Inspector, Mrs Jan Tamm, and will be involved with under-fives in the county.

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Bert Lodge previews a major National Foundation for Educational Research study on appointments

New heads on unready shoulders

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How the N.H.S. has sharpened up nursing recruitment

At the moment, most people who want to train for a nursing career apply to more than one school of nursing.

Which involves a string of references for each one and a pile of unnecessary paperwork.

But now the red tape and wasted effort will be cut out thanks to a new organisation managed by the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

It's called the Nurses' Central Clearing House.

Nurses-to-be wishing to commence their training after 1 September, 1987 should now apply to the NCCH. (For earlier courses they should apply direct to the colleges of their choice, as they do at present.)

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education offices, but these are also criticized. "In some cases, too many people were introduced and the new heads found the faces just became a blur. In other instances, a poorly-planned visit meant that few key staff were free to meet the new heads, who found it simply a waste of time."

The survey calls for an induction programme over several days for newly-appointed heads. At present, only a quarter of authorities run such courses for heads which last more than a day.

Where an authority has only a small number of new appointments each year, the authors recommend setting up a consortium with neighbouring authorities to provide induction. Another suggestion already practised

by some authorities to overcome the problem of low numbers is to run a combined course for primary and secondary heads.

But the report cautions: "This can work successfully for some general components of the course, such as i.e.a. procedures, but for other topics it is best to divide heads into separate groups, as many new secondary heads felt their needs differed from their primary colleagues."

One idea, implemented by only 14 per cent of authorities at the time of the research, is to link each new head to an experienced "mentor" head. The researchers found that many new heads were reluctant to seek managerial advice from officers and advisers,

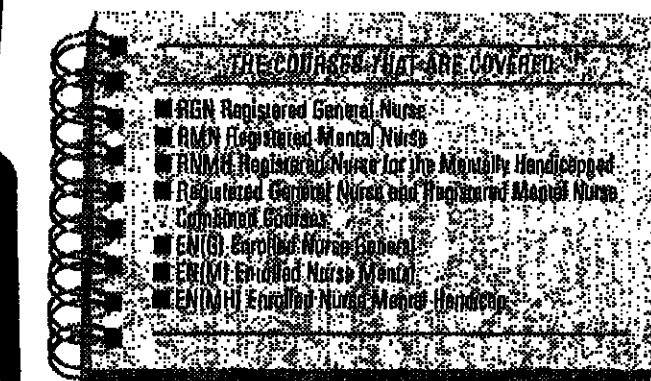
and would prefer to go to other heads in the authority.

"There is, however, a need to avoid pairing heads who are competing for children in the same catchment area and to ensure that the heads have reasonably similar educational philosophies. This type of scheme, which is easy to set up, should be provided by all authorities."

Other suggestions include a panel of experienced heads as "consultants" to supplement the authority's advisers and officers. Another useful tool for the new head is a handbook "about who does what" and general procedures in the authority. The researchers found only 38 per cent of employers providing such written guidelines.



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Hi-tech goes on the road

In-service on wheels is how Ms Carol Wisely (above left), an advisory teacher for technology, describes the London borough of Richmond's latest addition to its resources.

The distinctive white double-decker bus is equipped with much of the latest technology - four computers, video, TV, overhead projector and slide viewer, as well as more ordinary materials such as wood, metal, Meccano, Lego, and tool kits.

Ms Wisely, part of a four-person advisory team responsible for promoting technology in Richmond's 43 primary schools, will be driving the bus through the local traffic. She will work with teachers and children from two or three classes in each school for two-week periods.

The top of the bus has been turned into a workshop and Ms Wisely aims to give teachers the confidence to take on craft, design and technology teaching in their own classrooms once her bus has departed for the next school.

01-670-4177

James Meikle reports from the National Association of Inspectors and Educational Advisers' annual conference at Bristol - where appraisal was the main topic on the agenda

A stylish canter by the fresh thoroughbred



Angela Rumbold: engaging

The appraisal of Angela Rumbold deemed her fit for at least the entry grade as Minister of State. Her audience found her less depressing than her hero Sir Keith Joseph, who seemed at the same conference last year too ready to accept - in the advisers' eyes - the low priority that Cabinet colleagues put on the service.

Mrs Rumbold's frankness was engaging. She did not know what the Cabinet was thinking and she herself did not make priorities, she said in answer to a question about central government attitudes to education.

"I just argue for my own cause - your cause is my cause." Can you imagine Sir Keith Joseph ever saying "I have grown to love the service very much indeed"?

But then by upbringing at least Mrs Rumbold is one of the girls and boys of local government, having had her training as a past chairman of Kingston's education committee, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee and the Council of Local Education Authorities. She has also spent many hours at Burnham Committee meetings.

"When I was in local government, you won-

dered how on earth one could get central government to understand your problems, particularly in education," she said.

She didn't use her newly exalted position to promise a new abundance of cash but she did at least hint that it was time for a reconciliation.

Mrs Rumbold also provided a strong contrast to her predecessor as minister of state, Mr Chris Patten. He seemed a deeply interested outsider, who did his homework assiduously, talked earnestly and in detail about matters that interested teachers, and told them seriously and sincerely how good most of them were.

She was altogether more chatty and chummy in this first confident public appearance. "There are no secrets about a woman's age these days," she quipped, referring to newspaper articles about her history.

She writes her own speeches, clearly preferring plain speaking to Civil Service. "Your language is totally different from anything that any other collection of human people have managed to dream up," she joked in an unscripted reference to some of the acronyms that abound in education.

She read an extract from her *"Better Schools"* - which "you know as better than I do" - and then added: "It's the obvious, we sometimes encourage strange phrases."

Mrs Rumbold's phrases are certainly exciting. "Which-hunts and carous are not part of the scene," she said.

No, but horse racing may be. "The thoroughbred we have been hoping for looks as though it is approaching the punter. As a punter I have placed my bets on picking up the binoculars."

It was not all change, however. Mrs Rumbold made the now customary important note: teachers as well as buttering up her local educational inspectors and advisers. She could not avoid repeating that buzz much loved by Sir Keith, adopted by Mr Baker, and even used by Mr Baker, to whom, she never referred. She seemed, however, to be talking about Sir Keith - "a man of conviction and honesty".

The buzz-word? - effective. Mrs Rumbold

President calls for regional authorities

Regional education authorities with more independence and spending power should be set up to replace the present "fudged" local and central government partnership, Mr Jim Stephenson, the new president of NAIEA, said.

Money should come either from greater powers to raise their own income, leading to a corresponding drop in taxation-paid education, or more centralized funding, with a cut in local rates.

Mr Stephenson was not worried that new regional bodies might not be directly elected. The system need not tend to any less parental or community involvement in education, he argued, pointing to the potential for personal treatment and "patient power" in regionalized health services.

Proposing an agenda for more clarity and sense of direction, Mr Stephenson warned that the present so-called education partnership was being suffocated "either by design or accident or both".

"The present deliberate fudge helps no one except crafty politicians and perhaps civil servants ever anxious to identify new buck-passers. The existing mess provides a copper-bottomed recipe for procrastination, confusion and waste."

"The distinction between a Secretary of State who proposes and local education authorities who dispose, serves little useful purpose, and is frankly not understood by the nation at large. In many ways we get the worst, rather than the best, of both worlds."

Mr Stephenson, an adviser with Lancashire County Council, also said there was an urgent need for one government department to be responsible for all practical education and training.

'Appraisal should help to weed out poor staff' - Hart

Teacher appraisal documents should be used to help get rid of incompetent staff, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, told the conference.

He stressed that the use of documents to start separate disciplinary procedures would be a last resort, but refusal to take account of appraisal results in considering dismissals would devalue the whole exercise.

Mr Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, is aware that his comments may cause tensions with other unions in the continuing negotiations about national guidelines on appraisal and the setting up of pilot projects.

In recent months, there has been general agreement, from Government and local authorities as well, that appraisal should be used to help teachers' career development rather than as an instrument to weed out bad teachers.

There are, however, still differences over the ownership, privacy, and use of appraisal documents.

Mr Hart said that if teachers did not come up to scratch, after more training, counselling and general encouragement, heads would have to report the facts to education officers.

Heads would be devaluing themselves if they did not believe that appraisal would throw up a small minority of incompetent teachers, he said. "If we thought that, we would not only be devaluing the appraisal system in the eyes of the Government, which doesn't worry me over much, we would be devaluing the appraisal system in the eyes of parents, in the eyes of the public."

Mr Duncan Graham, chief education officer of Suffolk, who heads a research team that has done much to allay teachers' fears over appraisal, also warned that staff assessment documents could not "end up hidden in a cupboard". But he argued that appraisal should not be directly linked to promotion or discipline.

Both Mr Hart and Mr Graham doubt whether a national system of appraisal can be started next September, as envisaged by the Coventry Heads of Agreement.

Pilot schemes which were meant to be under which this term are unlikely to start before January, and only then if there is no major change in the Government's approach.

The advisers were also concerned about possible conflicts with government appointments of staff. They felt there could be differences between the opinions of "lay" people on school heads and those of education professionals.

Some are trying their own pilots already. They have no great desire to be direct appraisers of all teachers, one speaker pointed out that in his authority, each adviser would only get 2 minutes, 47 seconds, to appraise each teacher, not counting travelling time or any other responsibility.

The advisers were also concerned about possible conflicts with government appointments of staff. They felt there could be differences between the opinions of "lay" people on school heads and those of education professionals.

Government is ready to pay for much of it.

The costs of appraisal are still difficult to estimate because of uncertainties about how schemes would operate and how often individuals would be assessed.

The NAHT believes a countrywide system could cost £50 million to establish. The Suffolk estimate is slightly cheaper, based on a £110 bill for each appraisal. Both estimates fall short of the £100 million price tag of the National Union of Teachers.

All parties have also warned however that there could be a big extra training bill and demands for more equipment and staff as a result of appraisal.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, the new Minister of State for Education, assured the conference: "You can take it from me that the Government will be under no illusions about the time and manpower elements of appraisal or about the price tag that is attached to this package."

Pilot schemes would give a clearer idea of the cost, she said.

She showed some frustration at the time that talks about schemes were taking but added "we no longer think of appraisal as a luxury but when appraisal arrives."

Mrs Rumbold offered some thoughts on how advisers could be involved in teacher appraisal - adding expertise in small schools and moderating the results of in-school appraisals.

The advisers and inspectors themselves are still working out their policy - realizing that a national framework for appraisal of their performance, and that of education officers, is not too far off.

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Peter Coleman: measures of educational standards too bureaucratic

Never mind the quality

The bureaucratic methods of measuring educational standards were criticized by Mr Peter Coleman, director of education for Avon.

He said that reliance on performance indicators and value-for-money approaches seemed based on an attitude of "never mind the quality, feel the width".

"They dwell upon what is easily measurable rather than what is important. I find myself very concerned that

the Audit Commission dwell on things like staff-student ratios, to overlook the educational process taking place between teachers and students."

Continuing his theme of measurement, Mr Coleman said the sole criterion in the popularity of a school is its exam results. He said that the wrong schools may be encouraged to close.

Advisers fear losing parity with headteachers

Educational advisers and inspectors are annoyed at suggestions that the teachers' new salary structure, agreed in principle at Coventry, would not necessarily result in a knock-on bonus for them.

There are about 4,500 advisers, educational psychologists and youth and community service officers whose pay is linked to that of heads but formally negotiated through the Southbury Committee.

This means, for instance, that the pay of a subject adviser in an authority with fewer than 250,000 residents is equated with that of heads in the seven. A principal educational adviser in a large authority would be paid on a par with a group 12 or 13 head.

The advisers, who include former heads, deputies and senior teachers, argue that they will only be able to

attract able staff into their profession if their salaries remain at this level.

They say that many of the conditions, including holiday entitlement, are already worse than those of teachers.

The warning not to assume that salaries would remain linked to heads was made by a local authority spokesman. The TES soon after the Coventry Heads of Agreement.

The Southbury Committee met since a possible link had been agreed for teachers. Representatives of five organizations representing employers' and teachers' interests met yesterday and a decision was expected.

Southbury is responsible for the salaries of school management staff. These are linked to pay scales for teachers, and are set by the authority's salary committee.

Virginia Makins looks at proposed reforms for the public schools' entry exam

Common Entrance on a streamline course



Facing the facts: prep school boys must absorb a plethora of knowledge

A proposal to reform the main entrance examination to public schools, and bring it more into line with the new General Certificate of Secondary Education, has been sent back to the drawing-board because it received a very mixed reception from heads of preparatory and public schools.

The Common Entrance Examination is the bane of every 11 or 12-year-old prep school-boy's life. (Girl's public schools mainly recruit at 11 or 12; very few demand the full 13-plus Common Entrance.)

The exam consists of written papers in English, mathematics, science, French, history, geography, scripture, and usually Latin. A recent option to reduce the load by allowing one general paper to be taken in place of history, geography and scripture has been taken up by very few schools.

Last year, a working party under the chairmanship of Mr Ian Beer, head of Harrow School, met to consider the transfer arrangements between prep and public schools, to review different options, and to make proposals.

'Examinations should reflect rather than determine the curriculum'

Its first discussion report began: "Our starting point is that examinations should reflect rather than determine the curriculum. With Common Entrance and scholarship examinations, there is substantial concern that the reverse may be the case."

The report said that the present exam crowded practical and aesthetic subjects out of the timetable, and made it difficult for schools to offer a balanced education. There was no possibility of adding yet more subjects, such as art or craft, design and technology, to the Common Entrance - the exam was already considered to be too long.

The report also took account of the changes coming in with the GCSE, with more emphasis on oral work and practical achievement, and more continuous assessment.

The working party's proposal was to keep five written papers - compulsory English and mathematics, and a choice of any other three from the subjects now examined. In addition, schools would draw up compulsory profiles of pupils' achievement in the other subjects, and also in art, CDT and in music.

There would also be optional subject profiles for computing, drama, Greek, other modern languages, and

other areas of interest, such as astronomy "to encourage prep school teachers to share their knowledge and enthusiasm."

The report caused a furore in the prep school world: "Passions run incredibly high over the Common Entrance," said one member of the working party. One group of Home Counties heads tried to whip up support for a statement prophesying a decline in national standards if Common Entrance went down the dangerous path of the GCSE.

The risks of precipitate and irreversible change far outweigh any advantage that might be gained by the

immediate implementation of the working party report, they maintained, and they predicted that there would soon be a retreat from the new GCSE.

But other heads argued that the Common Entrance was forcing them to spend their time cramming boys with a large body of knowledge, instead of educating them for the real world through a broad and interesting curriculum that fostered study skills, problem-solving and co-operation. "A lot of us like the philosophy of the GCSE - giving children a chance to show what they know not what they don't know," said one head.

Faced with such dissonance, the transfer working party retreated, and produced a second report which recommended that the Independent Schools Curriculum Committee should start experimental work on profiling, graded tests and other examining techniques.

The new report hopes that this work will lead to a system that is flexible enough to promote a broad curriculum up to 13 "without total dependence on conventional examining." The working party will continue to meet.

"We're not backing off - we can now evolve quietly and still end up with what we wanted in the first place," said Mr Beer. "There was wide agreement after the first report that it is extremely important that we go on working at the problem."

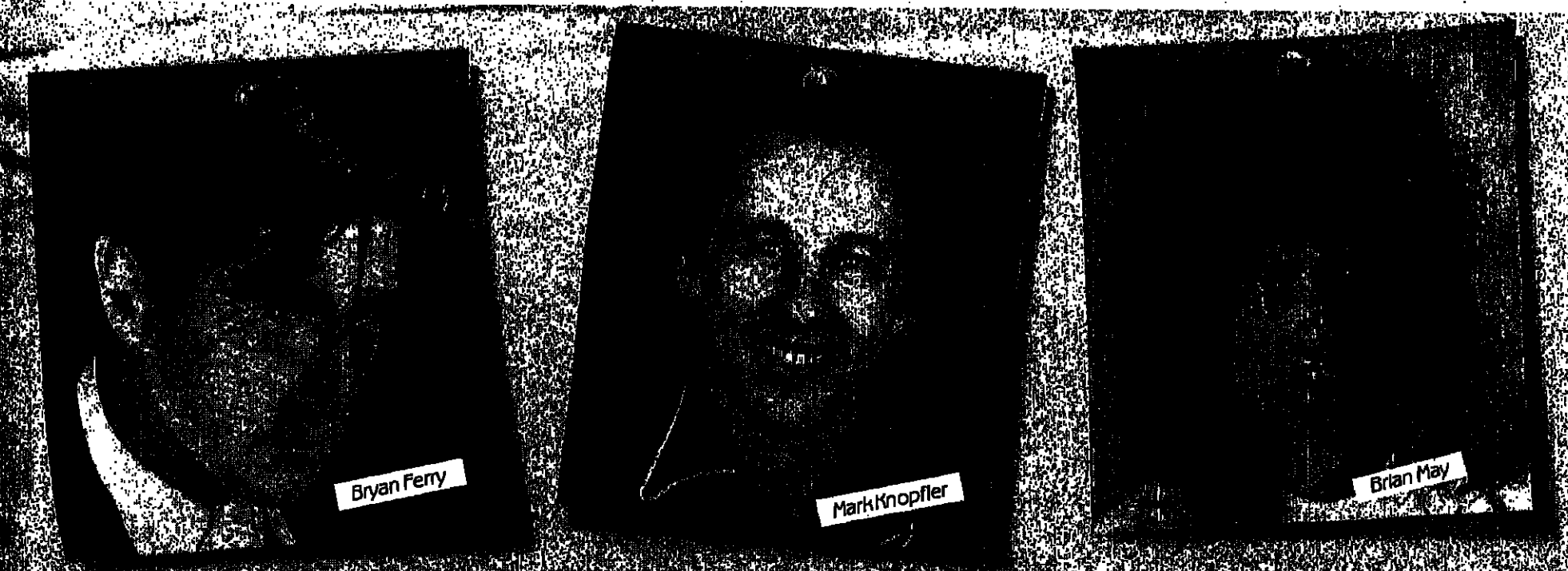
Mr Beer is concerned that the Common Entrance neglects important cultural and technological aspects of the curriculum for eight and nine-year-olds who will grow up at the turn of the century, and that it is "an exam which means that a whole lot of kids don't get many marks".

'The risks of irreversible change far outweigh any disadvantage'

Mr Christopher Everett, head of Tonbridge School and outgoing chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, believes that "there is now general agreement that something will have to be done to solve the two almost contradictory problems of the Common Entrance - that the exam is too long and complicated, and that it constricts the curriculum too much."

"There will be a steady transformation, rather than a slam bang change," he said. But others are less optimistic. "We seem to be in for boring attrition, as usual," said one prep school head.

Three ex-teachers who feel Rock School is an essential part of a music education



Bryan Ferry

Mark Knopfler

Brian May

TSB
Rock
School

NEWS

Punjabi passes

by Lindsey Darking

Teacher Gurdeep Singh Mahil and four of his pupils are celebrating after a record O level success.

The pupils, from Clifton middle school in Ealing, all passed Punjabi O level this summer - and they are only 12 years old.

From left to right, they are Kamaljeet Kaur Janjua, Kiranjeet Kaur Dehli, Jaspreet Singh Merbay and Pardeep Kaur Kooner. They obtained three grade Bs and one grade D between them in the JMB exam, which they took after three years of study in their spare time.

Mr Mahil, who teaches at the school, said he believes it is the first time such young pupils have been entered for the exam.

"Some people doubted whether they were up to it, but I was confident from the beginning."

"They didn't like me at first because I pushed them to study hard and speak Punjabi at home. But now they are thrilled they made the effort."

L.e.a.s blamed in deaf dispute

by Valentine Low

Politicians and local authorities have been blamed by the National Deaf Children's Society for "enormous delays and in some cases apparent intrusion" in the cases where deaf children have missed school.

Ms Jane Speedy, NDSCS education officer, said she was increasingly concerned, and suspected that similar cases had not been brought to her attention.

In one case, that of 12-year-old Jane Enright of Brent, north London, the NDSCS accuses the L.e.a. of basing decisions on politics rather than need. The L.e.a. wants Jane to go to a maintained special school rather than the non-maintained one which her family prefers, and which the NDSCS says is larger and cheaper.

Brent says it is legally obliged to put the needs of the child before the cost of the education. Councillors from all political parties and education staff agreed that Jane would benefit most from attending a special hearing unit attached to a maintained school, said a council spokesman. She would get tuition at home until an appeal was heard.

The case of 11-year-old Samantha Burgess, of Hastings, East Sussex, has been going on for 18 months. Her parents want her to go to the Mary Hare Grammar School for deaf children, but East Sussex education authority decided that a local community college would be more suitable. Her parents are appealing to the Education Secretary.

The dispute over David Melling of Blackpool, dragged on for two and a half years, causing the family great stress, according to the NDSCS. His family wanted him to go to the only Roman Catholic school for deaf children in the country, St John's School, Boston Spa. They appealed to Lancashire L.e.a. and the Education Secretary, but lost both appeals.

Mr Harry Clayton, director of NDSCS, said: "It was the intention of the 1981 Education Act to protect the interests of parents and children. All too often it is used as a weapon against them. The delays, which local education authorities and the Department of Education and Science seem to encourage, are an added burden on parents who are trying to make the right decision for their child's future."

New degree

Exeter University has introduced a new degree course in information technology, focusing on the use of computers to improve performance in industry and commerce.



Merridale returns as champion of shires

by Richard Garner

Mr Philip Merridale, who led teachers' pay negotiations for the employers' side until just over a year ago, has stepped back into the centre of the education arena.

Mr Merridale, who is the Conservative chairman of Hampshire County Council's education committee, lost the leadership of the Burnham management panel early last summer after Labour and Alliance successes in the 1986 local government elections.

At one stage, with political control in the authority on a knife edge, it also looked as though he could lose the chairmanship of his own county's education committee.

However, he has bounced back to take over the chairmanship of the Association of County Councils' education committee in succession to Mr Arthur Harries, the independent councillor from Dyfed in Wales.

Mrs Josie Farrington, who chairs Lancashire County Council's education committee, has been elected as his vice-chair for the next year.

Labour had been optimistic about winning the chairmanships of all the ACC's committees when Mr John Allison, from West Glamorgan, was elected the body's chairman.

However, the Conservatives are still the biggest party on the ACC -



Josie Farrington



Philip Merridale

although they cannot command an overall majority.

Mr Merridale led for the employers' side in negotiations for two years while they were in dispute with the teachers.

He incurred the wrath of the National Union of Teachers when he compared delegates at their annual conference to "orang-utans" after they had voted to escalate industrial action over their pay claim.

The return of Mr Merridale is the more surprising since at one stage it was thought he might lose his seat on the ACC altogether.

Alliance councillors in Hampshire

who, with Labour and Independent support, could muster enough votes to defeat the Conservatives, had threatened to exclude him from the county's delegation to the ACC.

With the loss of another Conservative seat in a by-election, it looked as though his chairmanship of Hampshire's education committee was at risk.

He survived both threats and now looks set to play a leading role not only on the ACC's education committee but probably in discussions on teachers' pay and conditions as well.

Ulster low on science

by Carmel McQuaid

Boys and girls in Northern Ireland are less enthusiastic than those in England about A level science, a survey among 1,434 sixth-formers in Ulster grammar schools has shown.

While the 2:1 ratio of boys to girls taking science subjects is the same in both places, the percentages differ widely. England's 44 per cent boys and 22 per cent girls contrasting with the province's 34 per cent boys and 18 per cent girls.

The Queen's University researchers, Mr Alex McEwan, Ms Carol Curry and Mr John Watson, also report that science continues to be a masculine domain, where twice as many boys as girls choose three science A levels.

Boys in co-ed schools are also more likely to take more mathematics/science A levels than those in single sex schools, but no such difference was observed for girls. Those least likely to study any A level physical science subjects are girls in Catholic and Protestant schools.

Higher cost of Tory meals

by James Melkie

Conservative education authorities charge, on average, 10p more for a school meal than Labour ones do, Mr Frank Dobson, the shadow health spokesman, said last week.

Some hung councils and authorities controlled by independents also charge high prices. Mr Dobson said Labour authorities charged an average of 57p - with five charging less than 45p.

The average cost of a meal in authorities controlled by independents, mainly in Scotland, was 64p. Authorities where the Alliance was in

control, or held the balance of power, or where no party was in overall control, charged 65p on average. Tory councils charged 67p on average.

The Seilly Isles, controlled by independents, was the first authority to charge £1 for a meal. It was followed by Avon (hung), 77p, and Somerset (hung), 79p. Harrow (Conservative) and Buckinghamshire (Conservative), all 75p.

Buckinghamshire was about to follow Dorset, Hereford and Worcester and Lincolnshire, all Tory, in scrapping its meals service, except for those children entitled to free meals.

Creative arts 'central to TVEI'

The creative arts should be seen as a core element of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI), Mr Barry Upton, advisory teacher for TVEI in Cheshire, told a recent conference in Devon.

"The creative arts provide the best means of developing the child's awareness of him or herself, and of others," he said. "By its very nature, the subject provides opportunities for self-expression and problem-solving."

The message of the conference, attended by a range of people involved in the arts within TVEI and the Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education, was summed up by Mr Anne Snelgrove, head of drama at France Hill School, Camberley, Surrey. "The arts have to get involved," she said. "TVEI is totally one of the most far-reaching agents of curriculum change this decade. We ignore it at our peril."

IN BRIEF
Dunn backs delegation

Mr Bob Dunn, the education minister, has urged local education authorities to delegate more financial decision-making to individual schools.

He told an international seminar of educationists, architects and architects in Cambridge that he was looking for "evolution, not revolution". Twenty L.e.a.s had started programmes to delegate financial responsibility to schools.

He said: "I know that some authorities have recently introduced schemes for local management in such areas as energy conservation and telephones whereby a school is charged to improve efficiency by being able to retain a proportion of savings."

Grants plea

Mr John Davies, the director of University, College and Professional Publishers' Council, has called on Government to ensure that grants are high enough to enable even small schools to benefit.

Design counsel

Pupils following Certificate of Vocational Education syllabus at Bechford High School, Bath, are being encouraged to use their taste of the real world of design to prevent design recommendations to local councillors for part of their own school.

CEO arbitration

The pay dispute involving chief executives and other senior staff is to go to arbitration following the employers' refusal to increase offer from 5.5 per cent.

Extra posts

The London borough of Hillingdon is considering employing more extra teachers to improve standards in primary, middle and secondary schools and cope with extra workload of secondary schools.

£3.5m proposal

Staffordshire County Council plans to employ 40 more teachers, spend £3.5 million on building improvements and buy more new technology for schools under a £3.5 million proposal for 1987-88. The Labour-controlled authority is expected to approve the package in October.

Computer cash

Warrington county secondary school, Surrey, has received £1,000 from the Commercial Union Assurance to buy computers for a new GCSE course in business and information studies.

YTS man on move

Mr John Lee, MP for North Devon, has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment. He is responsible for the Ministry of Defence where he is responsible for the MoD's Training Scheme.

Review contest

Essex library service and the Essex Arts Association are organising a literary review competition. Prizes for would-be critics who offer an opinion, in fewer than 500 words, on one of 100 contemporary novels.

Parental role

Parental involvement in the curriculum proved such a hot topic at Exeter University's education conference last week that the lectures have been repeated. Copies are available from the Curriculum and Resources Unit, St Luke's, Exeter EX1 2LH.

Book display

An exhibition of Pinner school college textbooks will be held in the gallery at Foyles bookshop on October 2-6.

Public schools are leading a move to practical courses in information technology

Harrow brings a touch of class to City and Guilds

The City and Guilds of London Institute, purveyor of trade qualifications to the manual working classes since 1879, has now gained the patronage of their betters. Pupils at half-a-dozen leading public schools are studying for a City and Guilds' information technology certificate which may lead to their using word-processors in exams such as the GCSE.

The schools have chosen CGLI instead of a school examining board because they want their pupils to learn useful practical skills.

Many school computer studies still concentrate on teaching pupils to write programs in computer languages or about how computers work, and if schools offer word-processing instruction at all, it is usually as part of an office training option.

That approach is increasingly seen as irrelevant to the way computers are used in most jobs. Employers want people who know how to use computers already programmed to operate as word-processors, to make financial calculations, or to keep records.

The new City and Guilds certificate of basic competence in information technology aims at getting pupils to master the use of computers in at least one of these roles. It also teaches them about the hardware and software used in industry, and familiarizes them with

the technical jargon. The idea of the course, which is at present being piloted in 30 schools, half of them in the private sector, came from Mr Ian Beer, headmaster of Harrow. He believes that word-processing will replace typing and handwriting before long in higher education as well as in industry, and wants his sixth-formers to master the skill before they go to university.

Mr Beer thought at first of trying to get a school examination board to devise a suitable syllabus, but found the officials he approached were not very interested. Then Sir Raymond Lygo, chairman of British Aerospace, heard about the idea, and asked the CBI to back it. They persuaded Mr Beer to start discussions with City and Guilds.

Mr Beer (whose brother, Professor Stafford Beer, has for decades been a leading prophet for the information society) told *The TES* this week: "I must confess that I would not myself have thought of going to them, but I have nothing but praise for the way they are handling this. I am very glad to be working with them."

City and Guilds, which is sending its own assessor to monitor the pupils' progress, says that the course is intended primarily for sixth-formers, whether they are preparing for higher

Threatened quango has hope of winning MSC support

The Manpower Services Commission is thought to favour the preservation of the Further Education Unit, the out-spoken quango which the Department of Education and Science is seeking to abolish.

The commissioners will consider at their meeting this month their formal reply to the DES consultative paper which favours merging the unit with the local authorities' Further Education Staff College (FESC). The CBI and TUC representatives, who make up the main body of commissioners, are understood to dislike this proposal - partly, perhaps, because they are not swayed by local authority control over FE activities.

The FEU, on the other hand, has not hesitated to criticize the authorities on occasion, as well as central government; and although the unit is not always kind about the Commission's activities, the MSC values its practical work and employs it on a variety of projects.

In any case, both the commissioners and their senior officials have some difficulty in understanding why the DES now wants to end the independent existence of the FEU when, earlier this year, the Employment Secretary urged the commissioners to make more use of its services.

The local authorities themselves are not rushing to grab the DES gift offer. The Association of County Councils' response will almost certainly make it clear that the association values the FEU and can see no good reason for tampering with it. It will stress that if there is to be any change it must preserve the close links between the unit and the local authorities.

In effect, this would be saying that the ACC was reluctantly prepared to accept the FESC merger as a second best.

The AMA's view is less predictable: members will be deciding their attitude at a public meeting of the education committee in Birmingham next month, but they too are unlikely to greet the merger proposal with any enthusiasm.

Most of the FE professional bodies, including the college principals and NATFHE, the lecturers' union, have indicated that they will strongly oppose any change in the present arrangements.

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SCHOOL TO WORK



Harrow headmaster Ian Beer: boys use word-processors to correspond with him.

education or going straight into industry or commerce. But Mr Beer says he hopes that before long his younger pupils will also be able to tackle the course.

One place where he would like to see pupils using word-processors is in academic examinations. "The position is not very clear at the moment," he says. "One of our pupils who used a processor for his project had the work sent back to him by the board concerned, but I understand that the governing body of that particular board is about to consider the issue in general."

Boardroom practice for sixth forms

Britain's leading management college is to provide free courses for its local sixth-formers.

Ashridge management college in Hertfordshire has invited pupils from ten schools for a weekend course this month and next, as part of Industry Year. The courses are potlatch versions of many of the activities which make up the college's costly training for middle and senior managers.

Sixteen factory managers will lead the pupils in discussion syndicates and there will be talks from Mr Brian Wolfson, president of the British Institute of Management and Professor Simon Majumdar, Cranfield management school, on opportunities in industry. The sixth-formers will also practice how to handle selection interviews with experts, using closed circuit television.

The courses, which would normally cost £400 for each student, plus VAT, are free and the college staff and factory managers are giving their services voluntarily.

Mr Mark Ryan, director of external relations said the college wanted to do something practical for industry "instead of the ritual stuff which we don't think is all that effective."

Headteachers from the schools spent a day at the college last month sampling some of the training sessions which have been prepared for their pupils. Mr Ryan said: "Because we propound the need for business to be managed effectively to make profit there were some left-wing criticisms expressed, but by the end of the day most of the heads were asking whether we could make this an annual course."

Whatever happened to wax crayons

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Edited by Mark Jackson

Sue Surkes looks at the inspectors' first fact-finding foray to West Germany

HMI bring home thoughts from abroad

Poetic words and enthusiastic talk about important messages for England and Wales are hardly the stuff one expects from Her Majesty's Inspectors.

But both are present in their first published account of a visit to West Germany.

The natives are not only keen on *Vorsprung durch Technik*, it seems. They also have an education system based on broadly-accepted curricular and assessment guidelines, staffed with highly-trained and well-paid teachers and geared towards youngsters who are able to keep their options open until the end of their school and training careers.

The inspectors credited the West German system with more apparent success than the English one in retaining large numbers of pupils in education up to the age of 17 and 18 – providing attainable goals for them to work towards and not having off different groups of teenagers in ways that cast them adrift from the educational mainstream.

The inspectors said: "These arrangements in general education, linked as they are with a training system in which industry plays a leading and responsible part, combine to give a broad range of pupils a range of qualifications to aim for; the possibility of threading their way through an interrelated system; and a sense of

hope in that they are not dropped out of the system early on."

The framework influenced the expectations of pupils, parents, teachers, employers and the nation as a whole.

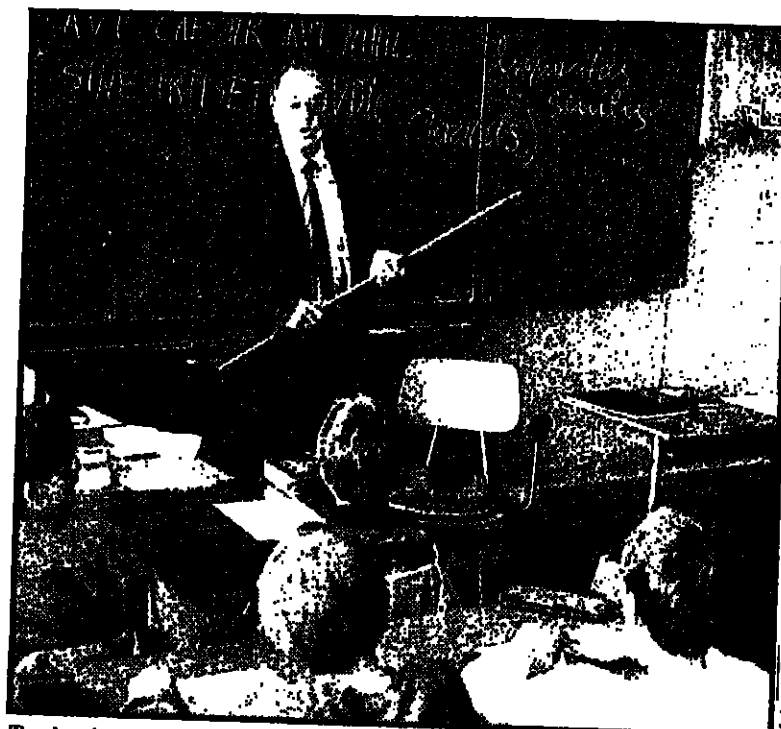
"This wide agreement about education and its assessment is in itself an important message for English education where such agreement, undertaking and trust are lacking."

Six inspectors spent two weeks in the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria last year observing – rather than inspecting – examples of good practice in curriculum guidance, examining and assessment.

They decided to publish their account because of the interest British educationists had shown in the West German system, the comparisons often made between the two countries, and the contribution such information could make to debate here.

They were impressed by the West Germans' uniform curricular guidelines which were developed in the individual states, discussed within a voluntarily convened national co-ordinating forum, and then finalized and implemented at federal state level.

There was a long history of detailed development work on curriculum guidelines for individual subjects at all ability levels, which led to "a greater confidence that pupils' work in each year and ability group bears a clear relationship to subsequent work than



Teachers' salaries are high by English standards

is often the case in England."

The inspectors looked at the *Notenskala*, a six-point grading system used in most schools, subjects and age groups for all written, oral and practical work for which marks were recorded.

"The scale may be too short for our liking, but the notion of a national scale, however imperfect, could have considerable applicability in pupil-profiling and other such developments," said the inspectors.

The *Notenskala* was also crucial to the flexibility which allowed pupils to cross the boundaries within the tripartite system of grammar, secondary modern and technical high schools.

The assessment system for the *Abitur* qualification, which opens the door to higher education, had potentially important messages. What had been taught determined what was assessed. Guidance indicated suitable levels of expectation. Oral testing was an important feature of all examinations.

And the element of continuous assessment made pupils aware of the need to qualify before the examination itself was taken.

The inspectors found that responsibility for assessment fell on teachers rather than external examiners. Teachers spent six years in training, including two years in the classroom learning the theory of assessment and gaining limited practice. Once appointed to their posts, they served two years' probation and were expected to carry on learning.

Up to the age of 55, they could expect to be assessed periodically themselves by heads, or inspectors in the case of the two states visited. The process enabled inspectors to monitor standards and helped federal states to determine the movement of teachers to the next salary scale or towards headships.

For all these responsibilities came rewards. Teachers were accorded the

privileged status of civil servants of the federal state. Their pay and conditions included monthly salaries that were "high by English standards", a specified number of teaching hours, and expectations that they should not only these subjects, ages and school types for which they held qualifications.

The inspectors saw much they liked in West Germany but warned that aspects of the assessment system could lead to serious problems if transferred straight into an English context.

The *Notenskala* was vague and not supported in curricular guidelines by clear statements on what constituted, for example, "adequate performance" (grade 4).

And with a system that aimed to keep all possibilities of movement between school types open, and where there was a danger that teachers would trend too cautiously, looking for the rather than analysis.

"To English observers, while the amount and quality of oral work in classes were high, much of the work seen was unduly theoretical, little concerned with the practical applications of knowledge and skills."

In their concluding commentary, inspectors said: "Assessment came out predominantly by the pupils' teachers, even with varying degrees of external control, is clearly better than our own examinations system."

"But it is only low-cost when seen in isolation, for it exists within an otherwise high-cost system of expensive, well-trained and well-paid teachers working in high-quality and well-maintained buildings, and teaching carefully-developed curricula in which much time and money and corporate effort have been invested."

Ultimately, the system worked to cause virtually everybody involved some determined that it should do so.

Education in the Federal Republic of Germany - Aspects of Curriculum Assessment, price £2.50, is available from the HMSO Publications Centre in London (01-622 3316). HMSO bookshops and accredited agents.

Excellence movement produces ordinary results

UNITED STATES
Bill Norris on why the Administration is putting a brave face on this year's aptitude test scores

The United States school reform movement, which was lauded by President Reagan last year for producing a record jump of nine percentage points in average scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, seems to have stalled. This year's results, just released, show no improvement. At an average score of 906 – out of a possible 1,600 – they are identical to those of 1985.

The Government is putting a brave face on the figures, which continue to fall far short of the peak of 980 achieved in 1963, though they are better than 1980's historic low of 891.

Mr William Bennett, the Education Secretary, said: "Clearly the excellence movement has been having an effect, and we're holding the ground we've gained. But now we must push ahead with these reforms to ensure that we pick up steam again."

Many educators, however, have expressed disappointment that there has been so little progress at a time when states have been raising high-school standards and pouring new money into their schools.

To the dismay of many, the annual test scores have achieved a sort of statistical majesty on a par with the Dow Jones index or the gross national product. In the public mind, they have become an infallible indicator of the health or sickness of the nation's

schools. In reality, they are nothing of the kind. The multiple-choice SAT examination, which is used as an admission standard by many American universities, is purely voluntary and taken by only about 40 per cent of graduating high-school seniors. These tend to be the brightest and the best, and are concentrated in states with good academic reputations. In others, such as Mississippi, Iowa and North Dakota, as few as 3 per cent of eligible students take the test.

Ironically, when the average results are rated state-by-state, this puts South Dakota – which also had 3 per cent of its students take the exam – on the top of the heap with an average of 1,098. Iowa recorded 1,095 and Mississippi 1,011.

But no one seriously supposes that the schools in these states are better than those in Connecticut, for example, which only averaged 914 but

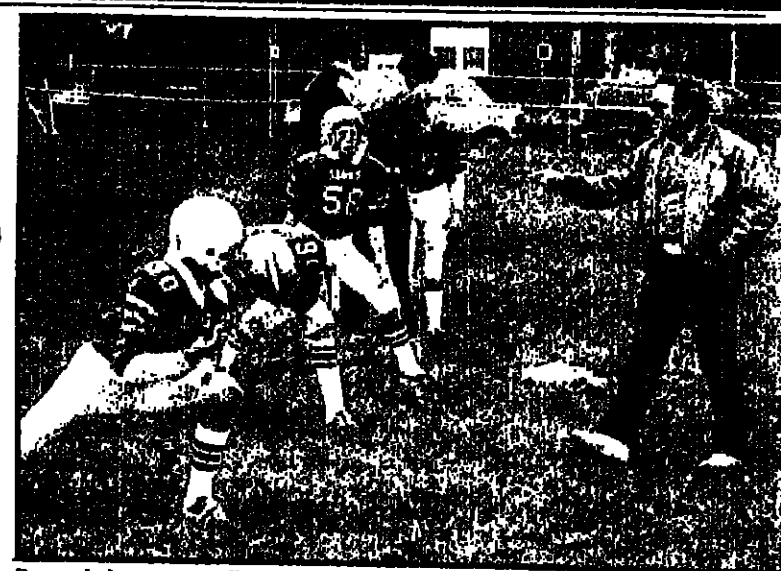
where 69 per cent of pupils sat for the test. By most objective measurements, Mississippi's schools rank last among the 50 states.

This year's lack of progress is being explained away in part by the fact that more students, some 2.3 per cent, took the examination in 1986, and that most were in the lower reaches of their classes.

There is no analysis of the latest figures for the performance of various racial and ethnic groups, because student questionnaires are being redesigned. Recent years have shown some improvement in the scores of blacks, Hispanics and American Indians, but they have still lagged far behind their white peers.

In 1985, the college board, which sets the test, reported that blacks scored an average of 722 – 184 points lower than the overall national average – while whites had an average combined score of 940.

The American College Testing Programme, which rivals the SAT exam in the west and midwestern states, has reported a slight improvement in results – by 0.2 per cent. Average scores rose to 18.8 on a 1-35 scale. However, fewer students take this test than the SAT, and it has never achieved the statistical significance of its competitor.



Poor scholars are not allowed to play for the football team

Parents attempt to kick games rule into touch

America's "no pass, no play" laws, which ban pupils from school sports if they fail to reach predetermined academic standards, are now on trial for being unfair to learning-disabled pupils.

For these youngsters, whose disabilities place them somewhere between able-bodied and severely handicapped pupils, the new rules have been traumatic. Unable to meet the requirements, they are finding themselves excluded from all extra-curricular activities.

The matter has come to a head in Texas. The first state to impose "no pass, no play" two years ago, it has an estimated 250,000 learning-disabled children.

A group of Texas parents are challenging the law in court. Mr Anthony Sheppard, the parents' legal representative, claimed that 60 per cent of such children fail at least one course during each six-week marking period, making them ineligible for outside activities.

The Texas law, Mr Sheppard says, "is punishment for being lazy. But many of these kids are extremely hard-working." He also contends that the law has disproportionately affected minority children, who suffer the lingering effects of educational and economic deprivation.

Texas authorities are fighting the case, pointing out that new amendments to the law permit committees of parents and teachers to waive the rules for some pupils. Mr Kevin O'Hanlon, the state's assistant attorney-general, said: "There's nothing wrong with requiring a kid, even if he's handicapped, to pass."

"If the committee properly assigns that kid to that room and says 'you are expected to perform', I think that's fair. The unfairness would come if the kid was improperly assigned, not in the application of the rule."

Ms Lynne Cannon, national president of the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, disagrees. She says that in practice the accommodations are inadequate, cumbersome, and rely on the involvement of sophisticated parents.

"We can't just make these blanket rules," she said. "Children vary a great deal."

Others claim that pupils are being pushed out of the mainstream classroom into special education, where they will gain the higher marks that enable them to take part in games. But as a result they are missing exposure to many subjects. A verdict in the case is expected in a few weeks.

Jostling in the race for space

One of the few innovations introduced by the late USSR Communist Party's general secretary, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, was to proclaim September 1 a Day of Knowledge holiday. But the new break was marred for many by the chronic shortage of space in schools.

Despite impressive figures on the number of classrooms and schools springing up throughout the Soviet Union, overcrowding remains a thorn in the side of educational authorities. Yevgeniya, a teacher who works in Moscow's southern suburbs, explained that her school was built for 700 pupils but is attended by 1,300.

"For years now, it has been working

SOVIET UNION
Juliet Butler reports from Moscow on widespread overcrowding in primaries

two shifts a day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon." When a housewife, whose daughter's extra ballet lessons clashed with her afternoon shift, asked the local education committee if she could be moved to a less overcrowded school, she was told that the schools in her region worked on the same system.

"My daughter is only seven, yet she studies in the second shift at school and doesn't come home till 7.30 in the evening," complained Angelina, a single mother living in Moscow's Lenin Prospekt. "Now winter is coming on, it will be like studying through the night."

The situation was not improved this autumn when an extra intake of six-year-olds was tacked onto the Soviet school system. Almost two million extra pupils filed off to form a new first grade this September. Soviet children normally start school at the age of seven, and many mothers were anxious about taking their youngsters out of cosy kindergartens and placing them into the dusty-busy of a large school with hundreds of teenagers.

"I wasn't worried when he went to kindergarten," says working mother Galina Simonova of her six-year-old boy. "I knew he would sleep well there and always eat on time. But how will this be organized in schools?"

The deputy minister of education, Mr Pyotr Yanachayev, insists that Soviet schools are fully prepared for the bulk of six-year-olds. Only the best, most experienced teachers will be dealing with them, he says, and the children will not only be given three

meals a day but will have a special dormitory and playroom as well as a classroom.

Some teachers, however, are not so optimistic. "How can we talk about extra playrooms and bedrooms when there is not even enough space for all the other pupils?" wondered one teacher of juniors.

But overcrowding is not the only problem troubling parents and teachers in the Soviet Union. Six-year-old Sasha Smirnov from Ryazan – like 40,000 other schoolboys in the eastern Russian town – was crestfallen at having to attend the first day of school without uniform. Unable to buy them in state shops, some desperate mothers turned to tailors to have uniforms made up at the last moment. But despite their efforts, 300 of the town's boys still turned up at the start of the month without them.

"The problem of school uniforms," announced the Government-run newspaper *Izvestia*, "is a worry for every family with a school-age child."

School uniforms are obligatory for all pupils from the first grade upwards. The attractive girls' uniform was inherited from Tsarist days. It includes a chocolate brown pleated dress with white frills around the neck and sleeves, and a black or white pinafore. Younger girls are expected to wear large white bows in their hair. Boys wear dark blue jackets and trousers, and all pupils aged between nine and 14 years wear bright red Pioneer – Children's Communist League – ties.

The Soviet capital had no shortages – but plenty of queues as mothers from all over the Russian Republic poured into the city to stand in line for the elusive uniforms. "I had no trouble buying an outfit for my eight-year-old daughter," said Yevgeniya, a Moscow housewife, "because I had plenty of time to stand in queues. But then I had to buy extra ones for my nephews and nieces living in Siberia. They sent me the measurements and I sent them back the uniforms."

Chronic overwork and poor health dog secondary staff

CHINA

Geoffrey Parkins on why Peking is finding recruits thin on the ground

Secondary teachers in Peking are plagued by poor health and bad housing, according to a recent survey of the capital's schools.

In some middle schools, staff were working an 18-hour day, and 90 per cent suffered some form of chronic illness.

Poor health was the most serious problem, said the survey, which was carried out in response to masses of letters sent to city authorities and newspapers complaining of the worsening conditions under which teachers are forced to work and live.

In Peking's Middle School 122, for example, almost every teacher had some kind of health problem. At the city's Yu Cai Key middle school, 90 per cent of its teachers suffered from chronic illnesses, while at Middle School 96 the figure was 74 per cent (103 out of 140), with another 26 suffering from high blood pressure.

The survey stated that teachers' poor health was generally closely connected



Middle schools: staff overburdened

with "excessive workloads". It said it was common to find teachers, particularly those over 40, working a 16-hour day, mainly because there were too few well-trained recruits entering the profession.

At Middle School 66, a 58-year-old senior-grade English teacher was found to be taking six courses for three graduate classes every day – from the morning to midnight. Added to this she had to correct homework and carry out administrative work during the night. As a result, said the report, she now suffers from heart disease, anaemia, bronchitis, cataracts and is testicular problems.

Most middle schools have tried to vain to obtain college and university graduates to ease the workload of existing teachers. But, with such low salaries, heavy workloads, poor working and living conditions on offer, the low status attached to the job, and the fact that graduates would have to enter the profession at midnight, few were attracted. The Yu Cai Key school was assigned seven university graduates last year, but only two took up their posts. Middle School 16, which received 10 graduates last year, decided to drop some of its own students for the teaching posts, but none was interested.

All Peking's middle schools suffer from a severe shortage of housing accommodation for teachers, as many port says. In some instances, as many as three families were found to be squeezed into small two-room apartments with poor lighting, heating and other services.

Family groups fear rise in promiscuity

Sex education is raising its coy head as a controversial subject in Irish schools. Particularly under attack is the state's Health Education Bureau which runs programmes for teachers on lifestyles and education about relationships.

Conservative Catholic groups are extremely critical of the bureau's programmes, alleging that the "value-free" "values clarification" and "non-directional" techniques used in discussions with young people will lead long-term to promiscuity.

Last week, they flew over a prominent "pro-family" speaker from the United States to address meetings of parents and teachers throughout Ireland.

Dr O'Heale McGraw, a member of President Reagan's National Council for Educational Research, said that the Health Education Bureau was using programmes which had been tried and failed across the Atlantic. They were based on a secular humanist approach, she claimed.

Dr McGraw, whose meetings were well-attended, said that if sex education had to be introduced into Irish schools it should be done from the standpoint of Christian teaching. Ireland, she said, had the freedom denied to Americans – of having religion in schools.

But her claims have triggered the chairman of the bureau's advisory committee on sex education, Mr

IRISH REPUBLIC
Advocates of sex education are encountering predictable opposition. John Walsh reports

Anton Carroll, a community school principal in a working-class Dublin area, who dismissed the criticisms as "ridiculous".

He said that the people who organized the tour were "so far right that they are in danger of falling off the edge".

There are indications that the outspoken attacks on the bureau do not have the full backing of all the opposition.

The president of the Catholic Communications Institute, Bishop Brendan Comiskey, spoke recently of the two extremes in sex education. One, he said, was a purely biological approach while the other saw in each and every form of sex education a threat to the faith and morals of the young.

The bishop made his comments during the launching of a new Catholic youth training programme, *Love Matters*, which is being sold in Britain and Ireland.

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The high price of HE loans schemes



Loans tend to discourage working class and mature students

Sir - When Kenneth Baker took over as Secretary of State for Education, he was hailed as a master of presentation. It now seems that for "presentation" we must read deliberate deception. To seek the support of university vice-chancellors for student loans, on the grounds that loans will increase access to higher education, is to ignore the very real evidence to the contrary from countries already operating such schemes.

Interestingly, that evidence against loans was recently supported in the House of Commons by his fellow minister George Walden - the man now charged with reviewing student grants!

Research by NUS and a major High Street bank into Scandinavian and North American loans schemes has revealed that, besides costing more than grants because of high initial investment and default rates, and being a nightmare to administer, loans were a disincentive to working-

class, mature, women and ethnic minority students - groups which are currently under-represented in higher education. Mr Baker claims he wants to give them greater access! The mixture of grants and loans currently touted by the vice-chancellors as a compromise would only compound the worst aspects of both systems.

This highlights a disturbing lack of truth in higher education circles at the moment. If the vice-chancellors are prepared to abandon their commitment to increased access in order to curry favour with Mr Baker in view of rumours of more cash for universities, they should say so. That is what students will understand, whatever gloss is put on it.

If Mr Baker, hemmed in on all sides by the right-wing Conservative opinion on education that is currently plunging him into rash action on sex education, "free speech" and other conference rabble-rousers, is prepared

to ignore the possible impact of student loans on access to higher education, let him do so honestly. His conference audience are hardly likely to torture him for keeping universities as elitist in their make-up as they were when they were at Oxbridge.

In deliberately misleading the academic community (who should know better) and the public on student loans, Mr Baker is playing politics with students' futures and the future of higher education. The vice-chancellors should be ashamed that they are offering hostages to fortune to a Secretary of State increasingly desperate for propaganda to support his Government's disastrous policies on higher education.

VICKY PHILLIPS
National President
National Union of Students
Nelson Mandela House
461 Holloway Road
London N7

Tiers of frustration

Sir - Regarding the so-called Covering agreement, all your correspondents appear to have entirely overlooked that Houghton in 1974 created the long-serving non-administrative classroom teacher rather than to establish an extra management tier. This subsequent Senior Teacher appointment has been so widely misused as a measure of how far headteachers and governors have sold the long-term classroom teacher down the river. The Teachers should be seen in this context.

There is nothing in the Covering deal to rectify such a glaring defect even to acknowledge the problem. At it evidently seeks to do is to perpetuate an administrative differential which should never have been created.

Second, a merger of the Scale 4 and Senior Teacher posts is logical in the distinctions between their administrative duties are frequently artificial. Indeed, many Scale 4 teachers have heavier workload than Senior Teachers because the latter are given lighter teaching timetable, although their respective administrative responsibilities may be, and often are, equally time-consuming.

Third, for a teacher who disdains administration, and wishes only to teach, to attain a salary zenith in his mid-thirties is a recipe for general classroom sterility, the beginnings of which can already be seen.

Finally, the points system for individual schools, which lies at the heart of much current teacher dissatisfaction, remains unchallenged. Within its framework, a 15 per cent limit on Principal Teacher posts will inevitably worsen, not alleviate, the current promotion tensions - a minimum 20 per cent such posts (not necessarily related to administrative tasks) would be more realistic. However, it would be better for the long-term future of state education if the points system and promotion procedures were scrapped altogether. The latter are inherently unfair and depend far too much on headteacher prejudice rather than real teaching merit.

I fail to see any real long-term gain in the agreement, for even the planned salary increases are phased and cannot be present. As to teacher obligations and there is no guarantee that real salary values would be maintained. The minutes are considerable and I cannot but conclude that various teachers' association leaders in Coventry have been out of touch with school routine for too long.

As it stands, the Coventry deal is at best merely paper over the cracks for a few more years, for it seems to have gone out of its way to create rather than tackle fundamental problems.

Dr J ROBERTSON
Head of history (Scale 4)
Hitchin Girls' School
Highbury Road
Hitchin, Herts

Cover vacuum

Sir - The article on cover problems (TES, September 12) makes a number of important points. However, I appear to have missed you in two respects:

1 I do not consider that "the quality of teaching provided by cover and supply staff" is itself worrying. Indeed, the splendid picture of good classroom relationships and concentration in one of North Westminster's classrooms illustrates that lesson teaching can be effective. Rather it is the whole lack of system that is wrong: there has been no proper study in this country of the educational management implications of the inevitable absence of teachers from their scheduled work.

2 I did not mean to say that "the only way to improve educational standards" is to address ourselves to the best ways of meeting the educational, pastoral and supervisory needs of pupils when the teacher cannot be present. As to teacher absences account for about a tenth of schooling, I argue that this is a very important focus for those who wish to improve standards.

The case of the absent teacher is one of the great vacuums in British educational research, planning, management, and resourcing. The Coventry agreement, whatever one's views in general, surely revealed how little thinking we have done about this issue.

MICHAEL MARLAND
Head
North Westminster Community School
Marylebone Lower House
Penfold Street
London NW1

Governor training

Sir - If plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery, I hope I may be forgiven a reference to your leader "Muddle, toll and trouble" (TES, September 12) in responding to Graham Bond's critique of the approach to governors' training adopted by East Sussex local education authority ("Cascade or little shower?", TES, August 15).

More mutual respect and goodwill... in the end promises far more than legislation to clear up difficulties.

At the heart of Mr Bond's criticism is his rejection of the "cascade" model of training governors, involving as it does headteachers, chairmen and existing governors in "inducting" their newer colleagues. It is, he asserts, "incestuous" and "at the mercy of the head and chairman of governors".

Perhaps so: I personally believe that the advantage of the cascade model far outweighs these potential perils.

It seems to me that there are two possible ways of providing initial training for governors. One is to take new governors out of the context of their school and governing body to provide them with "general" and then expect them to be absorbed into the work of the governing body. Mr Bond's own course is an admirable example of this approach.

Anyone who has attended an in-service training course will appreciate the way in which enthusiasm and new ideas can evaporate in the face of colleagues' cynicism back at the school and recognize one of the potential problems with this kind of training. The alternative is to structure an induction programme to which all governors can contribute by a comprehensive training package, can contribute to the cohesion and sense of identity of the governing body.

The decision, therefore, to adopt the cascade model was not based on fear or caution, as Mr Bond suggests, but rather on a profound belief in the need to strengthen and invigorate the "educational partnership" and provide deeper understanding and awareness of the rights, responsibilities and duties of governing bodies as a whole. The fact that East Sussex was one of only 10 L.E.A.s in England and Wales which were successful in gaining an Educational Support Grant for initial training of governors must suggest considerable interest in the reality of our approach.

J A CARTER
County Education Officer
East Sussex

Many ways of training for a diverse society

Sir - The article by Shahnaz Akhtar and Ian Stronach ("They call me blacky", TES, September 19) illustrates well some of the problems which exist in a region where cultural diversity is not a prominent feature of everyday life. It is therefore important to clarify for readers a statement which might seem to be an indictment of this school's lack of activity.

An unfortunate and mistaken criticism may be read into the authors' statement that their own university's programme of "teacher education... has nothing to say about racism". I am assured by the senior author that what was intended was to convey their belief that our programmes did not address this specific issue of "everyday racism", but like many other academic courses, tended to focus on traditional research concerns such as cultural differences and self-esteem.

It would be difficult to ignore the tremendous impact of the decision not to publish the "Race Pack" (TES, January 28, 1972) which the late Lawrence Stenhouse and his colleagues developed in the Centre for Applied Research in Education at the University of East Anglia. The memory of that debate is surely a national legacy in teacher education.

At a more parochial level, we have had options on multicultural education in our initial training programmes for a number of years. More recently we have established a working party to look into the recommendations of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers on this issue; adopted proposals from that group that the school should move towards permeation of multicultural issues across its programmes; and begun to set up a series of in-house seminars for faculty members to facilitate this move. These developments were much helped by discussions which were held with HMI during their recent visit.

GEORGEY BROWN
Professor of Education
Dean of the School of Education
University of East Anglia

White emphasis

Sir - The feature article by Shahnaz Akhtar and Ian Stronach provides frightening evidence of the extent of endemic racism in this country.

It ought, however, to serve notice to the anti-racist movement that there is an urgent need to place far more emphasis on the thousands of largely all-white primary and secondary schools in this country. Society is so constructed that it is from these quiet, suburban schools, and not from the inner-city schools, that the future employers, executives, managers, and shop stewards are to be found. It will be the attitude of these people that will be crucial in establishing the reality of a multi-ethnic Britain.

The major problem for those of us working in such schools is that of recognizing racism within our establishments. Integral to this process of recognition is the exercise of examining our own racial attitudes - an experience which can often be painful as well as revealing. Given the difficulty of such self-analysis, it may be useful for both primary and secondary teachers to meet and form self-help groups with the intention of learning from each other's experiences.

It is only then that primary and secondary schools will be able to deal more effectively with that much neglected area of the curriculum, "relationships between individuals".

MICHAEL L PAYNE
Deputy Head
South Wolds School
Church Drive
Keyworth
Notts

Changing faces

Sir - I find Anne Sofer's comments about my illustration of her article (TES, September 20) quite extraordinary. Having been a regular illustrator of TES for four years and having, during that time, produced countless images on the themes of race and race relations, I have never once offered a drawing which has been regarded (to my knowledge) as offensive.

I was given the text of her piece to read and produced an illustration which I thought expressed the spirit of it. It used animals (affectionately, not grotesquely, portrayed) because I have traditionally found this a convenient way to avoid the danger of a tasteless portrayal of human racial stereotypes. The animals were all talking in what was intended to be taken as different languages which seemed to me to illustrate the essential theme of Anne Sofer's piece.

It is used animals (affectionately, not grotesquely, portrayed) because I have traditionally found this a convenient way to avoid the danger of a tasteless portrayal of human racial stereotypes. The animals were all talking in what was intended to be taken as different languages which seemed to me to illustrate the essential theme of Anne Sofer's piece.

MICHAEL DALEY
15 Chapel Road
East Barnet
Herts

Address sense

Sir - We were of course delighted with the feature article on the National Under-Fives Unit (TES, September 12). Your readers may find it of value, however, to know where they can get in touch with the unit, and find out further details.

The members of the team, which comprises Rosemary Sage and Ann Robinson, in addition to Gillian Pugh, the head of unit, are based at the address given below (telephone 01-278 9441).

PETER RICHES
Assistant Director (Development)
National Children's Bureau
8 Wakley Street
London EC1

PE repeat

Sir - In his response to my defence of Dick Sheppard School's physical education programme (TES, September 19), London Weekend Television's Jeff Morgan accuses me of failing to present the "perfectly respectable" arguments in favour of our PE curriculum.

Yet it was precisely because the London Programme put out so many of these arguments, powerfully articulated by my PE staff, that I found it necessary to repeat some of them in TES (July 18).

It seems that Mr Morgan is not content with persuading me to allow his film crew into school (with the inevitable consequent disruption) and then projecting a selective view of our

History GCSE

Sir - While it is gratifying that the Historical Association's proposed syllabus is arousing such lively interest, your correspondents of September 12 ought actually to have read the proposals before rushing into print.

Mr Duxbury would then have realized that the proposed syllabus has been constructed to meet the National Criteria and consequently will be appropriate to a very wide range of pupils. Its methodology will be skills-based, making use of varied and contrasting sources. Such a methodology has been well developed by history teachers in recent years.

For his part, Mr Ashdown would have discovered that the proposed syllabus needs both to extend the historical studies of the five to 13-year span for all pupils and to complement the GCSE courses in history which 50 per cent of the 14 to 16-year-olds will choose as one of their options. He would have recognized the invalidity of his contention that our proposal undervalues the likes of Lenin and Roosevelt who are already major figures in some of the most popular GCSE syllabuses.

He would also have read that the proposed syllabus is modular by design and can be linked with other subjects - politics, economics, geography, literature, and technology for example - in valuable and stimulating combinations. Since the modularization of the secondary curriculum is accelerating towards us, all this seems to the HA a sensible approach.

Leading too hastily to defend what he interprets to be the territory of politics teachers, Mr Benven misses the same point. He misrepresents the HA syllabus as "a programme of political education".

In fact, it is both more and less than that and, personally, I hope that the



Politics and Historical Associations will work together to produce some first-class modular programmes for the important and sensitive area of political education for the 14 to 16 age group.

No one has challenged our central thesis that history should be an essential component in the curriculum of all pupils to the age of 16 and that British history should be an integral part of that component. This I find encouraging. If, rather surprising, perhaps that part of the argument is now won.

MARTIN ROBERTS
Member of the Educational Services Committee of the Historical Association
Head and history teacher
The Chervell School
Marston Ferry Road
Oxford

Shift to science

Sir - Anne Sofer makes the very interesting suggestion (TES, September 19) that all sixth-formers should study a mixture of the arts and sciences, but wonders whether the idea would be popular with the students themselves.

In fact, over the past two decades there has been a remarkable growth in the proportion of sixth-formers taking science A levels in combination with the non-sciences - from less than 10 per cent to nearly 30 per cent. In 1985, for the first time, there were more sixth-formers taking mixed A levels than the straight sciences.

This major shift in the pattern of A level studies, which seems to have

occurred largely unnoticed, means that many more sixth-formers are studying some science than is commonly supposed. Nearly three-quarters of boys and half the girls on A level courses do study some science and/or mathematics. With the support of the Leverhulme Trust, we have had an opportunity of studying the changes in detail and we are just about to report our findings.

The sixth-formers that Anne Sofer actually met may have let out "a howl of incredulous protest", but many others, of their own volition, have moved in the direction she is advocating.

Prof ALAN SMITHERS and Dr PAMELA ROBINSON
Department of Education
University of Manchester

Can but won't

Sir - I would like to applaud Anne Sofer's recent Personal Column (TES, September 19).

I work at a technical college and we have just enrolled some 120 first-year A level students; most of those who have opted for three science subjects are aiming for careers in the health service; some, intent on "something in the City", are doing law, economics and "either English literature or mathematics; those hoping for media careers have chosen communications (a subject suggested by Anne Sofer which already exists), film studies and non-A level options such as keyboard skills and "I-like shorthand".

Almost the only intending engineers are a few overseas students.

I tried to persuade those who had no clear career ambitions but a good range of O levels to do mathematics, physics and an arts subject to keep their options wide open, but met with

no success - most said that although they had a B (or even an A) in O level mathematics and physics they did not enjoy them at school so would rather do arts subjects at A level. They do not know what they do want to do, but they know they do not want to be engineers or physicists or teachers.

I was educated at a girls' school which is still a highly selective three-form entry grammar school. There was a long period during which more than half the 18-year-old leavers went into the teaching profession. Now hardly any of them want to teach - they are aiming to be accountants, lawyers, medical or business managers.

The implementation of Anne Sofer's ideas for university entrance might produce undergraduates who might be capable of becoming engineers, technologists and science teachers, but how do we persuade them they want to?

S F SHIPTON
4 First Avenue
Chelmsford

Write answer

Sir - I correct one important error of information in Hugh David's otherwise supportive article about the National Writing Project. "Turning promises into practice" (TES, September 26). We are not the National Writing (English) Project. We are not solely concerned with English teachers and English lessons, but with writing of all kinds in all areas of the curriculum.

JOHN RICHMOND
Acting Director
National Writing Project
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Best interests

Sir - The positive views concerning a future tertiary college in Islington expressed by both Neil Fletcher (TES, September 19) and Karen Abse (TES, September 26) are welcome. Neil Fletcher's description of effective work taking place at North London College confirms part of what I said in my submission to the education officer as my own contribution to the 16-19 exercise, and further achievements are strengthening the basis on which future collaboration between the Islington Sixth Form Centre and College can occur.

Karen Abse correctly represents the desire of centre staff to work co-operatively with North London College staff, but the understandable tension between staff views as trade unionists (a larger tertiary college means more jobs) and staff views as professional innovators in the development of a successful form of smaller-scale 16-19 education needs to be recognized.

Finally, for those possessing the capacity to read my submission with some degree of textual and professional competence, it will be clear that a good deal of my analysis of differences between a particular provider of sixth form education and a particular FE college was of more general application than the "institutional assessment" suggested in Barry Huggill's article (TES, September 5).

Bringing together the district traditions and objectives of two sectors in the best interests of students, while being extremely worthwhile, should not be regarded as either simple or uncontentious.

MARGARET MADEN
86 Cambridge Gardens
Sydney Road
London N10

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Wrong boxes

When schools are advising students which university departments to choose, they will need to look beyond the UGC classifications, warns a university correspondent

Schools and colleges advising students about higher education will probably be sneaking a glance at the recent University Grants Committee (UGC) evaluation of the research competence of universities. If they trust these evaluations, they will part company with many university departments, whose cries of despair at what they regard as the unfairness, anonymity and arbitrariness of the judgments have been filling the letter columns of *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and *The Times*.

The UGC allows no appeal against its decisions, although two law departments (including Oxford, which is reputed to have threatened legal proceedings) were found to have been victims of "a clerical error" when graded as merely above average. They were quickly declared to be outstanding.

Complaints to the UGC are met with bland assurances: the assessments were made after "years of observation" - little of which has been visible to those being observed - and after the collection of other data, both "hard" and subjective.

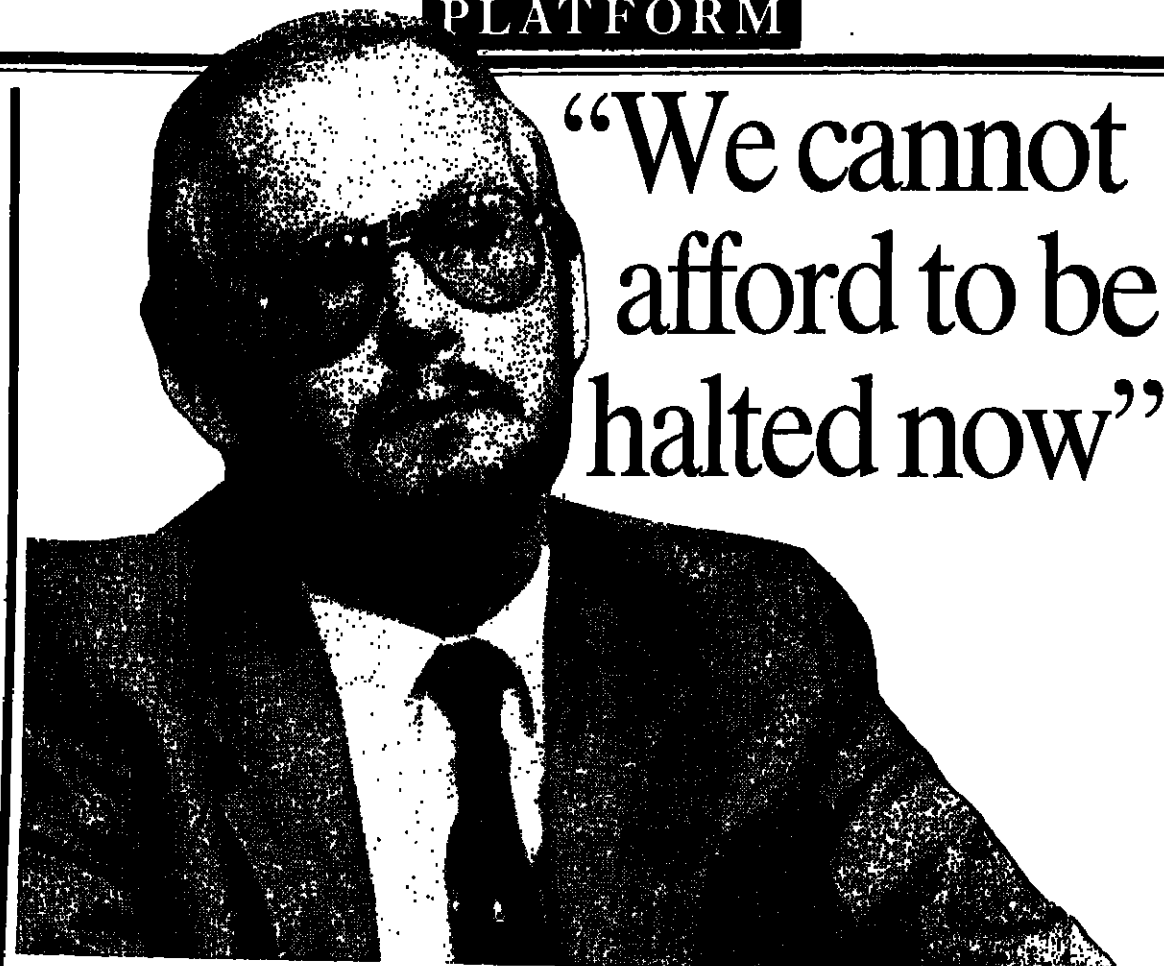
Former chairman of the UGC, Sir Edward Parkes, has said that as usual the UGC has got it about 80 per cent right, which means that perhaps 250 to 300 departments have been judged wrongly.

Until recently puzzled dons had no other scale against which they could test the UGC judgements. Now, however, teachers of politics can look forward to a study undertaken by election expert Ivor Crewe, of the University of Essex, who has analysed politics departments' research output in the form of books and articles published in learned journals. Many dons quarrel with Crewe's study, which is not yet published but will appear soon in *Political Studies*. Some have complained that some aspects of "politics" departments encompass a great deal of modern political history in their teaching and research. All the same, it is a careful and comprehensive piece of work which unlike the UGC evaluation, is based on stated evidence.

On the basis of this study the UGC judgements appear quirky, and often quite arbitrary. The UGC listed departments as "outstanding", "above average", "average" and "below average". Crewe used two classifications: overall per capita publication score, and a measure of the "collective strength" of departments by publication record. He ranks 52 politics departments in order. If we divide Crewe's list into four parts in order of publication merit, to correspond *pro rata* to the UGC classification, we get a remarkable contrast. On the information available, 75 per cent of departments were put in the wrong box by the UGC on the first of Crewe's scales, and 66 per cent are in the wrong box on his second classification. Some were out of their box "appearing" above average to the UGC and "below average" according to Crewe's publication scores. Crewe notes that Manchester, Warwick and Lancaster came out far better on a peer review (published in *The Times* in 1983) than by his own more objective methods. Similar discrepancies are obvious with the UGC evaluation of "traditional" departments like history. It seems, and the UGC is doing nothing to help them, that they are being judged on the wrong scale.

This example of contestable judgements in one subject area alone indicates that schools may do well to form their own views of which departments deserve students to choose. They will also remember that the UGC classification took no account of the teaching strength.

PLATFORM



"We cannot afford to be halted now"

Nearly halfway between the milestone of the Coventry negotiations and the deadline for agreement on a final package, employers' leader John Pearman takes stock, and answers critics of the agreements already struck between employers and the teachers' unions.

For the first time in many years there is a real and immediate prospect of a new deal being struck on teachers' pay and conditions. The talks at Coventry in July set us on the path to that new deal. Although much detailed negotiation has yet to be completed, I am confident that the momentum towards agreement is now irresistible: all concerned appreciate the consequences failure would bring for the education service as a whole.

The Coventry Heads of Agreement undoubtedly came as a shock to many of the hardened cynics who delight in denigrating the process of collective bargaining within the education service. Although several of the main features of the outline agreement had been in the public domain for some time, not least through the employers' proposals of autumn 1984, clearly the service as a whole has needed a few weeks to absorb the details and gauge the distance that has still to be travelled. So now seems a good time to take stock before the national negotiators enter into the final stage which should lead to a complete and detailed package before the end of the year.

The employers' starting point was the recognition that a fresh look was needed at most major aspects of the teachers' employment package. Not just pay levels, but also structure within schools, conditions of service, negotiating machinery and how best to motivate teachers and maintain high performance.

The temptation to see the Coventry agreement solely in pay terms is most rife among observers outside the education service. But it also seems to have taken hold among those teachers who have written to *The TES* and other national newspapers to complain that such and such a grade does "badly" out of the Coventry deal. Two hard facts have to be faced squarely by such critics of the Coventry package. First, a re-structuring of the package, the necessarily means that some will do better than others. (And in the context of a deal which costs roughly twice as much in the first four years as Sir Keith Joseph's famous "envelope" of £1.25 billion, I am not prepared to accept the complaint that some are "badly" out of Coventry.) Second, to reconcile salary levels that are acceptable to the majority of the unions with the financial realities, it has been necessary to phase in the increases.

So far as grade structure is concerned, the employers' objective was stated in the package we put to the unions last June. The number of grades should be limited to the number required to ensure a fair and equitable progression of pay and conditions, and the type of school and the type of promotion opportunities should be no more than is needed to give

those who seek promotion reasonable opportunities. Underlying this desire to streamline is the firm conviction that the classroom teacher is absolutely central to considerations of grade and salary structure.

During the ACAS discussions earlier in the summer some on the teachers' side argued that wholehearted adoption of the collegial approach, whereby many of the organizing responsibilities currently allocated to Scale 2 and Scale 3 teachers are shared among mainstream classroom teachers, would require only one grade between the Main Professional Grade and deputy headteacher. While this approach was attractively radical, the employers accepted the advice of chief education officers that, in addition, two levels of Principal Teacher would be required, and this is of course reflected in the Coventry structure. We believe this structure will meet the needs of schools but, of course, it will require changes in the present allocation of responsibilities within schools. It is worth pointing out at this juncture that under the Coventry agreement nearly one in three teachers will be Principal Teachers, deputies or heads; this provides ample scope for promotion during the course of a full career.

It is instructive to note how teachers at the maxima of the different scales will fare over the period to April 1991. It is worth pointing out at this juncture that under the Coventry agreement nearly one in three teachers will be Principal Teachers, deputies or heads; this provides ample scope for promotion during the course of a full career. It is instructive to note how teachers at the maxima of the different scales will fare over the period to April 1991. It is worth pointing out at this juncture that under the Coventry agreement nearly one in three teachers will be Principal Teachers, deputies or heads; this provides ample scope for promotion during the course of a full career.

The most enduring features of the Coventry agreement may turn out to be unrelated to pay: the commitments to introduce appraisal and to reform the negotiating machinery, and the acceptance into the scope of national negotiations of issues relating to class size, non-contact time and cover. Payrolls are determined by two components, salary levels and numbers employed. Hitherto, while salary levels have been negotiable, the ability of the unions to influence through negotiation numbers employed has been limited.

The acceptance that maximum class size is a negotiable issue is a major breakthrough of principle for the unions. From the employers' viewpoint, while there is plenty of room for argument about the precise relationship between class size and educational effectiveness, few could readily deny the validity of setting outer limits beyond which it is unreasonable to expect teachers to perform satisfactorily. And, of course, there are enormous advantages to both sides in having at long last the prospect of a properly-defined contract for teachers.

No one should doubt the risks the negotiations on both sides have taken in proceeding thus far, or the political courage and the breadth of vision that have been required. Too often in the world of education, complaints about detail at the margin have halted or diverted now. We must all, while striving to make the final package complete, concentrate on the overall needs of the service and be prepared to accept that the changes will, without any adverse reflection at all on those who continue to make the present structure workable, bear differently on different groups. We must also accept that tolerance, imagination and goodwill will be necessary to carry those changes into effect.

And, yes, we will make mistakes; that is why we have deliberately made provision for another fundamental review in a few years' time. But no one should seriously doubt that, if we can satisfactorily fill in the gaps identified in the Heads of Agreement, overall we will have a far better system, far better prospects and a far better climate than that which has obtained in the past few, very difficult, years.

John Pearman is leader of Wakefield Council and chairman of the Burnham Committee's Management Panel.

Extra money to be resolved under the Coventry agreement prior to April 1, 1991	Currently	Assimilated to	Approximate new money (in addition to annual pay awards)
Scale 3 (max)		Main Professional Grade	£4,800
Scale 2 (max)		MPG	£4,800
Scale 4 (max)		Principal Teacher I	£5,100
Scale 1 (max)		MPG	£5,100
Senior Teacher (max)		PT II	£5,300
Scale 3 (max)		PT I	£5,300
Scale 4 (max)		PT II	£5,300
PT I			£10,400
PT II			£10,400



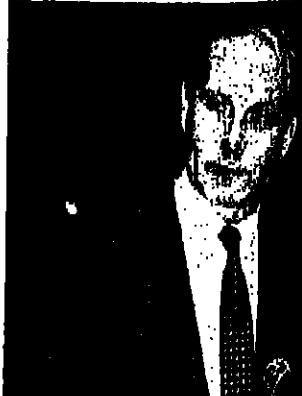
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Mother and child reunion

Most normal parents have difficulty with their children's moods and tantrums. So what hope is there that an emotionally unstable mother with learning problems of her own can cope with a daughter with gross behavioural problems?

Ann Kent reports on a special school that, as well as taking on the most difficult child it has ever encountered, is attempting to teach her mother the basic skills of parenting so often taken for granted.

Susie was six when she arrived at the Ryes School with the worst report the principal had ever seen. It described her compulsion to dominate others, infantile greed, viciousness towards other children and a deep sense of rage and despair which was liable to surface at the slightest provocation.

Before anyone had time to digest the report, alarm bells started to ring. Susie had set them off when she kicked at a wall.

The Ryes, situated in an old country house just outside the Suffolk town of Sudbury, specializes in all-year-round residential care for children who can't be placed elsewhere. Often pupils combine a physical handicap like deafness or inability to communicate with behaviour problems so severe that the children cannot be placed in the kind of school which would usually cater for them.

The social workers accompanying Susie explained that they had run through the entire repertoire of care options - from reuniting the child with her mother (this failed abysmally), to children's homes and special schools (she was too disruptive), and even fostering (Susie accused the husband of sexual abuse).

The principal of an assessment centre described her as "the most difficult child I have ever taught".

Her behaviour ruled out any chance of adoption, and it was beginning to look as if institutional care was the only option. It was an expensive way out - the Ryes fees are £360 a week, but Hounslow social services department was prepared to pay.

The numerous assessments which accompanied Susie to the Ryes in October 1983 listed her problems in detail, but offered no solutions. However, it was generally accepted that Susie should not be returned to the care of her mother, Janice.

Janice had spent her own childhood in a series of institutions because of behaviour and learning problems. Then she married a man who turned out to be a drunk and a wife beater. Janice hardly knew how to take care of herself, or control her own screaming rages, and was quite incapable of coping with her marital problems and a difficult baby. Susie was in voluntary care before she was three years old.

Calvin Martin, principal of the Ryes, hesitated over taking Susie on indefinitely. He felt sure he could help her, but he was worried that no clear plan was seen for her future.

The prospect of such a young child growing up in an institution - even his - was a horrifying one. "What sort of patterning would she have had if she stayed here all her life?" he asked.

"How would she fit into society? Presumably her children would end up in care as well. I told the local authority that I would take her provided they could come up with a long-term plan for her future."

"In the end, it was the school which came up with the plan, although it would never have worked without the tremendous degree of co-operation we received from Hounslow."

Having established that the London borough was not washing its hands of Susie, Calvin Martin and his colleagues set about modifying her behaviour.

"When she first arrived, you couldn't even sit her at a table. She spent her time screaming and running around, kicking and hitting other children, taking their possessions and saying they were hers."

"She would not conform to requests: every time she was asked to do something, she would argue. Her obnoxious behaviour made it difficult for anyone to give her the love and attention she so desperately craved."

Eve Burrows, the deputy principal of the school, became Susie's teacher, and substitute:

"The Ryes has a system of giving tokens for good behaviour at various stages of the day. In turn, these can then be redeemed for extra pocket money. This was particularly effective with Susie, who loved having the chance to buy her own sweets."

After 18 months, a lot of progress had been made, and the time had come to consider finding long-term foster parents, with a view to adoption.

But a major stumbling block was Susie's affection for her mother. Susie could not understand why she was unable to live with Janice, who visited her every three weeks and wrote regularly. It seemed highly unlikely that she would accept adoptive parents when her bond with her mother was so strong.

Meanwhile, Janice was extremely distressed at the prospect of separation, and was found wandering the streets of Hounslow in a confused state. It began to look as if the mother would need to go into an institution as soon as her daughter came out of one. To make things more complicated, Susie was in voluntary care which meant that Janice's permission would be needed before she could be fostered. No one believed that she would sign away her parental rights.

Child care authorities usually solve this problem by going into court and certifying the mother is an unsuitable parent.

Calvin Martin knew Janice wasn't a textbook, middle-class parent - but could he really say she was unfit?

"Janice was making a difficult journey from Hounslow frequently and she was doing all the right things - taking Susie out, buying her clothes, playing with her, and Susie behaved very well on these visits. There was a great deal of bonding, loving and caring between the two of them."

"We had taken the original assessment of Janice at face value, and now we began to challenge it. Hadn't everyone been attaching their own middle-class value judgements to the relationship between Janice and Susie?"

"We began to wonder if there was some way we could pass on to Janice some of the parenting skills which she had missed out on because of her own awful childhood."

The principal knew he was setting himself and his staff a formidable task. It is one thing for a special school with a generous staff: pupil ratio to bring a disturbed child under control. It is quite another to return such a child to a mother like Janice. But the pattern had to be broken somewhere along the line.

The complications were enough to make most people give up. Janice would have to give up her two-bedroomed council flat in Hounslow and live in a warden-controlled flat in a building owned by the Ryes, but actually located in the town of Sudbury.

Then, if the first part of the plan succeeded, she would need a council house in Sudbury where she could live with Susie while the little girl continued to attend the Ryes. And she needed guarantees from Hounslow Council that she would be housed back among her friends and family if the experiment failed.

Much to Martin's delight and amazement, the two housing and social services departments were prepared to dispense with the red tape and work together.

Barnardo's, the charity which specializes in family restoration work, advised on the project and drew up a contract for Janice and all the agencies to sign. The contract stated that this was a

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a last attempt to get Janice and Susie together, and if it failed, Susie was likely to be adopted.

Janice has a speech impediment and learning difficulties, and is emotionally highly volatile. But she is no fool and she was reluctant to risk signing away her parental rights (her husband is now out of the picture).

"Her greatest fear was that we were all in collusion to get Susie away from her, and only signed after a great deal of explaining and reassurance, and after consulting her own family," said Calvin Martin.

"I agree the contract seems punitive, but for Susie's sake we had to be in a position to come up with an alternative if the plan should fail. Some children have to spend their childhood in institutions because they have no hope of finding a family. But there was no need for Susie to be one of them: her problems are now not that severe."

Once Janice was convinced of their commitment to the project, she moved into the school flat, with Eve Burrows and her husband living downstairs, ready to offer support whenever it was needed.

Janice joined the school on its seaside holiday and was able to observe how the staff dealt with Susie's naughtiness. She sat in on lessons and saw how her daughter was encouraged to learn to read and write.

Familiarity bred contempt, and the child who had been so well behaved when Janice was travelling up from Hounslow was now refusing to do anything her mother told her. Under these circumstances, it was not enough simply to improve Susie's behaviour: it was necessary to build up Janice's self-esteem.

Eve pointed out that even parents who had not grown up in institutions and whose home backgrounds were very stable often found it hard to control their children.

She taught her how to deal with Susie's misbehaviour in stages, giving the child plenty of warning of what was likely to happen rather than immediately weighing in with the punishment.

Janice found it helpful if these stages were written down for her, so that she knew exactly what to say.

Janice had no idea how to speak at a child's level, and so the speech therapist taught her how

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to speak at a child's level, and so the speech therapist taught her how

to simplify and slow down her speech, and how to play board games like Lotto with Susie.

Gradually, the little girl was allowed to spend the occasional night and weekend at home until after six months she attended the Ryes as a day pupil. It then became obvious how much mothering Janice herself had missed.

She would put Susie in the bath, but it did not occur to her to wash her daughter, or tell her to wash herself. Janice didn't cut Susie's toenails, but then she didn't cut her own either. She didn't realize that children are called into the house on dark winter nights, even if it is not yet bedtime, and she would send her out in her indoor clothes.

These tasks were not omitted out of laziness but out of simple ignorance of what was required.

Once she was told what to do, or instructions were written down for her, Janice was anxious to co-operate. But willingness was not always enough: Susie quickly learned that while she could not wind up the staff at the Ryes, she could soon reduce her mother to impotent fury simply by refusing to come in from the garden. The argument would quickly degenerate into a screaming match.

Yet if Eve Burrows, living downstairs, showed her face at the window, Susie did what she was told at once. Meanwhile, Janice gradually came to see that Susie was deliberately provoking her, and was often able to avoid losing her temper.

After a year, the second stage of the plan came into effect. Janice and Susie moved in together into an end of terrace house on a council estate. But although Eve and her husband were no longer physically on the premises, their support was still often needed, along with that of the housemother, Doreen Taylor, and Calvin Martin and his wife. Janice had been told she could ring up whenever she needed support, and the calls came thick and fast. Sometimes stronger measures were needed.

Children can be very cruel to others whom they know to be different. Susie, confronting "normal" unsupervised children for the first time since she was a toddler, answered their jibes with her flax.

And, taking advantage of the fact that Eve Burrows was no longer there to keep order, she refused to come in from playing outside when her mother called her. One day she just stood still and screamed, alerting the cadence of her cries as if she was being hit. (In fact, Janice doesn't believe in hitting children.) The police were called and the scene ended in confusion, with Susie being returned to the Ryes for three nights as a punishment. This had just happened when I met them, and Janice was feeling pessimistic about her chances of keeping Susie.

That evening mother and child returned home together, each with their own piece of homework. Janice had another list of instructions setting out exactly how she should call Susie in, and how to issue warnings if she failed to comply. Susie's piece of paper told her she must stay indoors on the first day, that she could play in the garden on the second day, and with other children on the third - and that she would be returned to the school if she misbehaved.

Everyone was concentrating so hard on this that they had forgotten that when Susie first came to the Ryes she was not only illiterate, but ineducable - her capacities unknown. Now she was reading and discussing the things which she ought to be doing.

Much to Janice's surprise and delight, the weekend plan worked. She stopped talking about returning to Hounslow and hung her net curtains. But although that week's crisis was resolved, others will inevitably arise for as long as the two of them live together.

Calvin Martin said: "I can't say I am confident the plan will work, although we wouldn't be doing it unless we thought there was a good chance. Failure would have huge implications for Susie because she is unlikely to bond with any other parents."

"Whatever happens, there is no way we are going to turn Janice and Susie into a comfortable, well-adjusted family. But do we have the right to take children away from their parents on the basis of middle-class value judgements?"

Eve said: "There has been a very great improvement. Janice can control her temper most of the time, and is able to put Susie in her room when her behaviour starts to get very bad. Janice has never been formally assessed, but we think it is likely that she developed her own behavioural problems as a result of being put in an institution. We really want to break the pattern for Susie."

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Parent governors – elected or selected?



Two years ago a TES investigation found parent governor elections were a farce in many schools. Hugh David finds little has changed since and (right) that there is little evidence that the representatives of the consumer are keeping schools up to scratch in the way the Government hopes.

"Be enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons", thunders the 1980 Education Act which put parent representatives on the governing bodies of all maintained schools in England and Wales, decreeing that they shall be full members of the said bodies – and elected by a secret ballot of all parents with a child at the school.

At the time, the Act and its various provisions were warmly welcomed, both at Westminster and beyond. Parent governors would go a long way towards making schools more responsive and accountable to their neighbourhoods, it was said.

Representation of the consumer would keep schools up to the mark, and give short shrift to classroom extremists, according to Sir Keith Joseph. And secret ballots among the parents were supposed to ensure their views were represented fairly and democratically.

Increasingly, however, as these elections have slipped into the school calendar somewhere between sports day and the Christmas play, it is becoming clear that in their present form they are nothing of the kind.

Two years ago a TES investigation (TES, October 5, 1984) found that in many areas parent governor elections were becoming a farce. Little information is given out about the nature of the job or about the candidates standing. There is considerable variation in who is allowed to stand and vote, in the procedures for doing so, and widespread allegations that headteachers influenced the outcomes.

Graham Bond, a former head who now runs training courses for governors at Eastbourne

College of Arts and Technology, says local authorities saw such elections as a rubber stamping process. "I was once actually told that parent governors should be selected, not elected," he recalls.

There are few signs of any improvements since then. Earlier this year the National Association of Governors and Managers explained their reservations about the 1980 Act and the shortcomings of the election procedures in a paper called *Parent Governors*. As it points out, the Act "leaves many decisions about how parent governor elections are to be conducted to the local education authority".

In the experience of many parent governors, this is its single greatest weakness; authorities and even individual headteachers are allowed to decide for themselves precisely how the elections are to be conducted and who is eligible to nominate, to stand and even to vote.

The 1986 Education Bill currently before Parliament goes some way towards rectifying this situation. At its most basic it proposes a definition of the term "parent governor": assuming masculinity for the sake of clarity, it sets out to clear up problems of eligibility by stating plainly that he is "a person who is elected as a member of the governing body of the school by parents of registered pupils at the school and who is himself such a parent at the time when he is elected".

The Bill also prescribes the composition of governing bodies, laying down that even schools with fewer than 100 pupils must have two parent governors. At the other end of the scale, the largest schools – those with more than 599 registered pupils – will find themselves with five parents on the governing body.

The Secretary of State decided not to proceed

with a suggestion made in the 1984 Education Green Paper that parents should be in a majority on all governing bodies, regardless of the size of schools. Instead, the Bill allows for equal numbers of parents and local authority nominees.

Reaffirming that elections for parent (and teacher) governors must be by secret ballot, the 1986 Bill also proposes that authorities must "take such steps as are reasonably practicable" to ensure that every parent is informed in advance that parent governor elections are taking place, and that he or she is entitled to stand as a candidate and to vote. In addition, it says, parents must be "given an opportunity to do so".

It seems likely that many authorities will choose to provide this at or after the "annual parents' meeting" which the Bill would also make compulsory in every county, voluntary and maintained school – its primary purpose being to allow parents to discuss the annual report of the governors.

But all this still does not go far enough, according to NAGM. Like the 1980 Act, the Bill is too vague, and peppered with get-out phrases such as "in the opinion of the local education authority" and "as are reasonably practicable". Certainly its lofty, legalistic tone is nowhere near as pragmatic as the 10 "guidelines for a fair and democratic election" which NAGM's paper *Parent Governors* put forward.

The majority simply elaborates the existing 1980 legislation, interpreting it in the spirit in which it was originally framed. Their very detail, however, emphasizes just how much the Act – and the new Bill – leaves to the discretion and fair-mindedness of local authorities. Thus, on voting eligibility NAGM agrees with the Act that all parents of registered pupils at any school should be entitled to stand and vote in governors' elections – but their recommendation then goes on to stipulate that this means "each parent should have one vote, not one vote per family, or one vote per child".

It sounds an obvious point to make; but, as Graham Bond has discovered, various interpretations of the concept of the parental vote are common. Both of NAGM's examples of misreading have been used by local authorities in the past. The family vote, Mr Bond can only suggest, arises out of a belief that women are still incapable of casting a vote.

The NAGM paper also goes into detail about voting and election procedures, agreeing with the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education (CASE) that the basic consideration underlying these must be that of maximizing

participation. In the first instance, all schools should hold hustings meetings, candidates can say something about their interests and concerns.

NAGM inserted this proposal into its governor-candidates in various parts of the country discovered they were unable to effectively, Graham Bond too has the occasions on which candidates' meetings are limited, at the suggestion of the authority, to 36 words, or where they are the only way to reach parents was by a duplicated sheet to children as they left.

There have been problems of a different kind those local authorities in which parents' meetings are routinely held. Felicity Taylor, chairman of NAGM, believes that local authorities and even individual schools give particular consideration to their own interests in this too is reflected in the association's

Meetings immediately after school are the largest number of parents in some schools "provided there are crèche facilities". In others, early or late evening or even the weekend would be better.

More generally, NAGM argues that the school should not be an isolated event. Rather, it should be the focus of a campaign period, by general and local government election closing date for the ballot should be chosen after the hustings meeting, since not all would be able to be present on one day. Ballot boxes should also be prominently placed in the school, enabling parents to vote when delivering or collecting children.

Surprisingly, however, the NAGM paper does not suggest provision for a postal ballot. It has been tried in Sheffield where it was a great success, the turnout at parent elections in which it has operated being those in local council polls.

"Parent governors play an important role in increasing both parental and community involvement in schools", says Felicity Taylor, "but belief underlies their association's concern that many might see as the mere mimicry of democracy".

But, according to Graham Bond, the NAGM and the other critics of the situation are wholly justified. Speaking many years' experience in local government, he says that "parent governors are a potent force for more influence than town or district council. For that reason alone, we should all be concerned that they are fairly and properly elected."



The views of parents are still not welcome on many governing boards

'That's not how we do things'

No matter what the law says about their being full and equal members, a full academic year after they became a legal necessity, parent governors in England and Wales are still having a hard time.

"It's a battle to be taken seriously," says Hilary Davis, from Bangor, North Wales. "You have to be pushy. You have to make trouble, not because you necessarily want to but because you can't do your job properly if you don't."

The Education Bill currently before Parliament proposes that, in future, there should be equal numbers of parent and local authority representatives on all governing bodies. That is likely to be passed by the end of the year; but, in some quarters at least, its value is already being questioned.

"More people does not mean that governing bodies will in themselves be more representative," says Saleem Siddiqui, an Asian parent governor in the London Borough of Hackney. "There are still far fewer members of the ethnic minorities, far fewer women and far fewer working-class governors than there should be."

Felicity Taylor, Chairman of the National Association of Governors, has considerable sympathy with this view. Even after the proposed legislation is enacted, she says, there will still be a long way to go: "It is no longer a question of getting parents onto governing bodies. That battle has been won. Now we are concentrating on maximizing their usefulness."

"It is no good to anyone having what amounts to a couple of token parents on every board. That serves no point at all."

But at present that is exactly the situation in many schools. Parent governors from all parts of the country report instances in which they have felt themselves both resented by their "professional" colleagues and powerless in the face of local authority bureaucracy.

Hilary Davis in Bangor was advised "not to ask questions; that's not how we do things".

Another parent governor, elected last September, was not invited to a meeting until May this year. Others report that they have not been given copies of their schools' Instruments of Government, any advice on the governors' role, or even told the name of the clerk to the governors.

Jennifer Coates, parent governor at an ILEA school, admits to being forced to adopt "maverick strategies, just to by-pass the head and get myself into the school". One parent governor who asked to visit the school was told by the head that the governor's job was to attend three meetings a year and nothing else.

Isolated horror stories, perhaps; but other parent governors report more fundamental problems. Saleem Siddiqui, who has served on the governing bodies of both primary and secondary schools, feels that parents are still regarded as "lay persons with not much knowledge". He says teachers believe that "professional language will be above our heads".

In Gwynedd, Jenny Pritchard faced language problems of another kind. A non-Welsh-speaker, she turned up at her first governors' meeting last year only to find that it was to be conducted entirely in Welsh.

All over the country, parent governors also complain that, having been elected, they are left entirely on their own. "The teacher-governors and local authority nominees know where they stand, and belong to concrete groups," says one London parent. "We don't. We don't report back to parents because there is no reliable way of doing so. In the same way, they don't come to us."

"I really don't want my child's opinions to be my only source of information about the school," says another, "but it's bad enough getting parents to know they've got these things called parent governors without our having to chase them for their views."

A regular system of reporting back, perhaps through duplicated letters, has been suggested by many parent governors – but, as Hilary Davis found, even that has its problems. "My reports have to be approved, I really am given the feeling that I'm breaking secrecy by wanting to say what went on at a meeting. I wanted to tell ordinary parents that they've got the right to sit in at meetings as observers, but I was told I was moving too fast; that just wasn't on."

A letter from Devon's chief education officer, to all governing bodies in 1984 forbade parent governors from "contacting fellow parents through the school machinery" or by letter, and told the name of the clerk to the governors.

The letter did go on to allow parent governors to insert items in a parent-teacher association newsletter, but only "with the agreement of the governing body", even though by then parents had the legal right to read the minutes of the governing body in the school office.

Individual parent governors and the NAGM agree that problems such as these spring from suspicion and even hostility on the part of headteachers and local authority nominees. "I think it's generally felt that we should be primarily concerned about whether the lavatory doors have locks on," says one parent. "Quite literally, we should be interested in riots and bolts rather than the curriculum."

Nor is Mr Siddiqui alone in his view that parent governors are seen by the "professionals" as somehow incapable. Many others remember being told, sometimes in so many words, that they are "meddling in things they don't understand" when they attempt to question or even talk about the real work of the school.

Hilary Davis in Bangor found herself "practically excluded from staff selection and appointments panels", although through sheer persistence, she is now included, "but in an advisory capacity".

On the other hand, she says, everyone is anxious to have her opinion on happenings in the village: "Everyone is very friendly when we're gossiping over tea."

Local authority-appointed governors may bring to governing experience of the way committees operate or of the way the education service runs. The parent governor's inexperience of these things often leads to embarrassment, ineffectiveness, and a feeling that their special insights count for less.

One parent governor – one of the very few to eventually go on to become chairman of governors – remembers: "At my first meeting I didn't even know what a scale post was."

She recalls other times when parent governors were made to feel small or brushed-off because they asked naive questions or raised things at inappropriate moments.

"One woman felt the curry being served for school lunch was not suitable for five-year-olds and she raised it under 'Any other business'."

Instead of just having a quiet word with the head.

The defensiveness displayed by some heads when faced with what they regard as interference from parent governors makes such a low-key approach difficult. Certainly there needs to be a good working relationship with the head if the governor is to take up parents' grievances. But that, it seems, is not always achieved.

Among the questions the National Association of Governors says it is most often asked for advice on are: "How can I get on good terms with a head who is dubious about the value of governors, especially parent governors?"; "What do I do when a parent complains to me about a teacher?"; and "What can be done about an ineffective head?"

Felicity Taylor hopes all this will change when more parent governors have the opportunity of attending training courses. Certainly, in areas where these are readily available such as Inner London, she reports, parent governors have been "really responsive".

The NAGM's own Regional Training Programme which began last year with full-day discussions and workshops specifically devised with the parent governor in mind have been "massively oversubscribed". But given the large numbers of schools to be covered and the turnover of parent governors every two or three years, this can do little more than scratch the surface.

The Government's attempts to promote governor training have done no more. The £110,000 education support grants announced last year for such training works out at less than 24 a governor in the 10 authorities benefiting from a grant and nothing for the rest.

About half the local authorities in England and Wales have at some time offered some governor training, though much of this was in the wake of the Taylor report, was short-lived and of little benefit to new parent governors.

Until training is generally and automatically available, elected parents seem doomed to be unjustly – and probably unconsciously – relegated to a "second class" status at governors' meetings.

Saleem Siddiqui has seen it happen: "If parents help themselves to have less input, everything they do contribute will be accorded less value."

The reluctant go-between



Memoirs of a parent governor who is also a teacher

I became a parent governor because nobody else wanted to. I had deliberately resisted being nominated in the first round because I felt that other, non-teaching parents would be clamouring to be elected. This, however, was far from the reality.

Eventually, I had a visit from the vice-chairman of governors who said "Go on, we do need someone who knows something about education."

Flattered by this vote of confidence I signed appropriate forms and was duly appointed although the local authority has to be informed that one of its teachers was on the governing body of another of its schools as an elected parent. Actually there was no election and the other parent place on the governing body was not filled for some time.

About a week before my first meeting my elder son brought home a bundle sheet entitled "Extracts from headteacher's log". Feeling like an interloper in *Star Trek*, I read this through carefully and noted that there had been an outbreak of head lice, that various speakers had been into the school and that both members of staff had been attending a range of in-service courses.

I was very flattered by this and looked forward to hearing about the speakers and courses at the meeting. Two days before the meeting, I received a standardized agenda sheet

with various items crossed out; this was delivered by hand by a kindly gentleman who was clerk to the governors and also clerk to the parish council and obviously someone with his finger on the village pulse.

He stayed for an hour or so telling me about his Mini, which had done 198,000 miles on the original engine, his butterfly collection and his tropical fish tank. This was very interesting, but he left when I asked if we were going to have the opportunity to discuss the proposed experiment in language and numeracy that we had heard about from the head. He didn't really know if there would be time for that.

At the first meeting we met very formally and I was introduced to the other governors. Being relatively new to the village, I didn't know many of them but was nevertheless impressed by the range of titled folk or elderly gentlemen introduced as Major, Mrs and Colonel, etc.

I sat in stunned silence during the meeting as we went through the agenda like some sort of arcane ritual. I can only describe the atmosphere as one of being seriously "There were lots of congratulatory notes, directed towards the staff (good show)", but the meeting really came to life when we moved on to item 4, "Bullfighting".

Discussion focused on the decor of the outside toilets and for about 15 minutes there was some vigorous discussion of colour schemes, the Col-

onel's military khaki being overruled in favour of pristine white.

At the end of the meeting, I went to the pub with one of the other governors who said that meetings were usually like that and when I asked about procedure for putting agenda items forward was advised not to bother. I said I was disappointed that the children hadn't been talked about, that there were issues which parents were genuinely interested in, and there had been little opportunity to raise them.

Following this meeting, the experiment in language and numeracy was implemented; basically one of the staff took language and the other numeracy, with all the children in both classes. This moved away from what I had assumed was the sacrosanct principle of continuity of care in the primary school.

Many parents complained to me about this. This took me rather by surprise; some parents were actually aware that I was representing their interests and expected me to do something about this problem. I hadn't fully appreciated this go-between function of a parent governor.

When I took up the various issues – particularly regarding lack of progress with reading – informally with the head, she said that parents could complain directly to her. She did not feel that the issue should be raised at a governors' meeting but said that I felt such a fundamental rearrangement of the curriculum organization was something the governors would be interested in and she rather reluctantly agreed to talk about it at the next meeting.

At the meeting, the chairman took the language/numeracy issue as an item in the head's report and said to each of "these issues" that he

felt that the experiment was worthwhile in the issue of continuity of care and numeracy progress in the school since some parents concerned, whereupon the chairman asked enough discussion of this had taken place moved "any other business".

I felt really hard done by at this point and that the head arrange an open evening for the project with parents. She once again said that parents were welcome to come in but I was my suggestion he minutes.

There were lots of tense faces at this stage because the governing body had never, done anything except support the head in his day-to-day autonomy but now we must have been very strange. I say again, the not engaged in a witch-hunt but merely parents' concern and desire for clarification.

Three weeks after the meeting, the school discussed at an open evening attended by parents and the head calmly announced that although the scheme had enabled them to strengthen to be used to the full, it was not appropriate to revert to the original curriculum organization within the school.

My experience of governing bodies is limited. As a teacher myself, I was concerned and interested and accept full accountability to them; as a governor I was branded as devil's advocate prone to disrupting the head's dream of a "star" who perseveres in maintaining a status quo which direct concern to parents and others would be found of creating an optimum of learning which questions the Government's curriculum.

This edited account from a parent governor of a small rural primary school first appeared in the *Act* (teachers and governors) 1980, one of the *Parents' series* (which is available from the Curriculum and School Centre, University of Exeter, School of Education, St Luke's, Exeter, EX4 4JL) and is reproduced by permission of the publishers.

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The Rule of Law

The Changing Constitution. Edited by Jeffrey Jowell and Dawn Oliver. Oxford University Press £25.00 and £12.50.

"The enforcement of accountability depends largely on the ability of Parliament to prise information from governments which are inclined to be defensively secretive where they are most vulnerable to challenge." Colin Turpin makes this assertion in his chapter on "Ministerial Responsibility - Myth or Reality?". Secrecy rather than open government has been a fact of life in recent years. Witness, for instance, the difficulty in hearing the truth over the Westland Affair or the Falkland Islands invasion. Some ministers resign, notably Lord Carrington, Mr Richard Luce, Mr Humphrey Atkins and Mr Leon Brittan. Others deny the full doctrine of ministerial responsibility, and blame their officials. Thus Michael Selby, then Governor of Brixton Prison, resigned after three prisoners escaped, and the civil servant in charge of the appropriate division of the Northern Ireland Office "must be held responsible for some of the shortcomings at the Maze" after the breakout by some Provisional IRA members.

The extent to which civil servants can and should take the blame is a vexed question, as is their political involvement. What price Clive Posing's "not guilty" verdict after his role in the Belgrano affair, when he argued his responsibility to Parliament? What should be said in retrospect about Sarah Tisdall's leak to the *Guardian* "in the public interest"? These questions used to be the territory of constitutional lawyers and academic political theorists, but they are now so much at the forefront of debate that anyone who requires detailed knowledge of the present position and its implications.

That is not to say, however, that all the chapters make easy reading for non-lawyers. Some sections are irredeemably technical, and a glossary, as well as a more adequate index, might have been useful for the non-expert. Jeffrey Jowell's own chapter on "The rule of law today" is a remarkable exception. He examines

A V Dicey's concept of the Rule of Law, in the centenary year of the publication of Dicey's *The Law of the Constitution*, and analyses it with admirable clarity. This is undoubtedly technical material, but its influence carries well beyond lawyers. Who should fetter the discretion of officials in, for instance, the giving of grants for winter coats? And how should the decisions of planning inspectors be vetted, when both the law and "the public interest", not to mention "other material considerations", are taken into account? And who should make those decisions, and with what safeguards?

Safeguarding the rights of the individual is the central issue. But whether it is the responsibility of Parliament, or the judiciary, via the Rule of Law, is not clear. Should there be a legally enforceable Bill of Rights in Britain, so that British citizens will not constantly have to be washed in the public of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg? Arguably so, since "the Westminster Parliament has failed to use its sovereign powers to secure the rights and freedoms of the convention (European Convention on Human Rights) for the people of this country by incorporating the convention into our law". Anthony Lester argues this at the end of his chapter, but the refrain is picked up throughout the book.

One area left out of this otherwise comprehensive and impressive treatment of the subject is that of Northern Ireland. Jowell and Oliver note the omission in their introduction, and both Lester and Marquand touch on the subject. But of all the areas of constitutional concern, Northern Ireland is perhaps the most important - and the most intractable. As yet more controversy rages over the alleged "shoot to kill" policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and Stalker is reinstated by the Police Authority in Manchester. Rodney Austin's argument in this book for a Freedom of Information Act becomes compelling. For we do not really know what is happening in Northern Ireland. Yet this is the most crucial area for constitutional debate, as well as political analysis, of them all.

Julia Neuberger



Collied workers in a Breton sardine factory: one of the illustrations to Frank Delaney's *The Celts* (BBC/Hodder and Stoughton £14.95), which is published to coincide with the television series starting later this month.

Worth its salt

Grey Dawn Breaking: British Merchant Seafarers in the Late 20th Century. By Tony Lane. Manchester University Press £17.50. 0 7190 1876 5.

A sociologist who has been a seaman, Lane attempts a systematic analysis of "the changes and continuities of the seafaring life" during the past 30 years, when the British Merchant Service has been undergoing much technological and operational change and suffering dramatic shrinkage. To say that this is

a valuable textbook for the student of industrial history or social science is not enough. Heavily dependent as it is on interviews with over 50 seafarers, the book does not have the academic quality of a mere manual. The tang of the salt remains strong in its pages: the sociologist does not always dominate the sailor. There is much to inform and entertain that wider readership for whom ships and the sea and those who live by them have a constant appeal.

R S Morton

Fair game?

The Long Affair. By Harry Hopkins. Papermac £6.95. 0 353 42660 8.

In a Hampshire churchyard, the headstones on the grave of a "notorious poacher", tumbled in 1822, are the starting point for a fully documented study of the "Phenston v Fenner" struggle waged with varying intensity during the past 200 years. As William Cobbett noted, "the great business of the countryside is game", and the protection of harsh Game Laws countrymen impoverished by Enclosures had the mortification of watching the Squire's game growing fast on the meagre crops, but could not prevent. To assert their rights, to show their manliness, but more of all to provide food for their families, they turned to poaching. They knew it was the hazards of man traps and spring guns and the near certainty of transportation or execution if caught by keepers, the men who understood "walked alone" in their village. Harry Hopkins vividly describes this bitter warfare, with no quarter given in which even the poacher's larder could be sentenced to be hanged.

In Cobbett's poemers had a supporter, and his *Register* and *Leeds* to *Landlords*, as well as his opposition to Palmerston, opened up the whole problem to such an extent that what was a petty condemnation of its savagery, but was John Bright, Joseph Ash and later Lloyd George, with, odd enough, Punch, founded in 1841, who really roused anti-landowner feeling. Neither Prince Albert, raising £10,000 pheasants a year at Sandringham, nor Edward Prince of Wales, with his butties and extravagant house parties, were spared in polemic cartoon. In the North, anger at directed against the development of deer forest and grouse moors, leading not only to more poaching, but to the famous trespassers' by Rammers' Organisation on Kinder Scout in 1932. For those who wish to probe beyond the apparently idyllic country life of the 19th century and onwards, the book is on no account to be missed.

Eric Church

Wrong but Wromantic

Tom Corfe on the discreet charm of antique history books

from the books it covers. Here, then, is the image of our past as revealed to those in public elementary schools. Textbooks are less well represented. It was an image enriched outside the classroom by the work of those enthusiastic Victorian painters celebrated in Roy Strong's *Antiques Did You Last See Your Father's Photograph*. Reproductions of those Memorable Scenes packed the pages of Arthur Mee's much-loved *Children's Encyclopaedia* (the prolific Mee makes only one fleeting appearance here), while the versions of C W Aime's popular *Story of... told in pictures* series, which sold in their millions over every Woolworths counter.

None of these influential reconstructions appears among the handlist's selected illustrations. Twenty-seven out of 63 pictures reproduce contemporary drawings or paintings. Sound practice, indeed; these constitute reliable historical evidence. They illustrate the good social and economic history in print for school use. The *Queen's Everyday Things* series was born in 1918, and *Piers Plowman* came to life about the same time. Batsford published Harley and Elliot's wide-ranging collection of pictures and sources, the *People's Life and Work* series, from 1931.

But with the occasional exception (as *Piers Plowman*'s reissued, Vitell, Panter title-page image) these contemporary pictures seem less memorable than the dramatic moments immortalized by 19th-century artists.

preference for violent action colours our view of today's world. These were the images that thrilled budding historians and left a permanent impression of what the past was like, dense with lonely Princes in the Tower, defiant British queens and Saxon kings, saintly missionaries, tragically decapitated monarchs, noble deeds of battle-bravery, self-sacrifice, adventure, love and heroism. Illustrated by the great Historic Art Painter Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, John Gilbert, G F Watts, J M W Turner, C W Cope, Charles Landseer, Paul Delarocche, Benjamin West... the painting of the title-page of Nelson's *Highroads of History* (1930), and there they all were, in uncertain colour or fuzzy grey-and-white. This was how we learnt to recognize Cavell as Right but Wromantic, Roundheads as Right but Repulsive, to elate a classic textbook of 1930 inexplicably omitted from Baltho's list.

They lasted long, those images; just as the handlist's textbooks of the time lasted, and the teachers who used them. Marten and Carter, G B Firth, G W Stoughton, back they came, year after year, grubbier and fattier, blotted and pencilled, until children of the Fifties recognized daddy's favourite among those on the fly-leaf. Nowaday's textbooks, like teachers, work harder and last less well. Jazzy colour, comic-book design, lurid language strive to grab the passing fancy of telly-jaded infants. Sober Victorian puppets in kids' drag no longer put sophisticated boys' virtues are a joke. But the new textbooks, like teachers, however colourful and carefully accurate, are unlikely to prove as memorable and effective as

those antiquated lines and half-tones. The picture tied in with the stories, of courage, enterprise, loyalty and compassion, of "Warrior Queen", "Little Admiral", "the Barber who became a Knight" and "the Children's Friend". We are cautious with such sentiments nowadays. But Rhoda and Eileen Powers' *Boys and Girls of History* from 1929 is still readable and acceptable. The 11 portraits included in the handlist make an interesting cross-section of people who mattered in school history and themes that were explored: Christianity with some bias (Crammer, Ridley, Frederick the Wise, Erasmus, Bunyan), Renaissance (Leonardo), industrial enterprise (Stephenson), Empire (Durham and Gordon), and social conscience (William Morris and W E Forster).

Then as now, earlier times gave scope for more imaginative treatment, and artists had freer rein. Not surprisingly, an Edwardian Boadicea looks just like Christabel Pankhurst, and St Augustine is straight from Trollope. And was it textbook illustrations of Edwardian times who first gingered up the viking image by adding Wagnerian helmets? If so, that was their most lasting invention. Prehistory called for even richer imagination, stories and pictures to bring life to unrecorded heroes. 1904 to 1907 produced Strong and Sharpholth, Boldo and Gold. The 11 R Hall's *Days Before History* (Harper, 1907) is the likeliest of an unrecorded bunch. He lives in a pit-dwelling (archaeologically unfashionable now), wears deerkin, lacks proper furniture, watches pots moulded and baked, fights against disease, and progresses...

adorned the text are drawings of the artifacts that survive. Only the chapter is, by today's standards, a horror-story; the books know no more of the past and its portents than a way older book's hardly ever do. Their image of the past is careful, clear, realistic, based on sound evidence fully explained. Our class should have a far more accurate picture of the past than their fathers. But nowadays schoolbook images are overlaid by more powerful influences. Textbook pictures and values are given place to those of Hollywood and the soap opera. Whatever we tell them, today's children know that prehistory is about bikini-clad cavewomen wrestling with brontosaurus, that the clod-humping Christians, and that Roman emperors, feudal lords, Victorian capitalists, Germans, and people who push accents, are buddies who will get their come-uppance, usually violently, in the end.

The handlist may be obtained by sending 24p a.e. to the History of Education Project, School of Education, University of Durham, Leazes Road, Durham DH1 1TA.

Dead as Doornails by Anthony Compton (Oxford Paperback £3.95) compares tragicomic reminiscences of Brad Pitt, Brian, Patrick, Keanu, Pam, O'Brien, Colquhoun and Macgregor, and others who flourished, flitted by the Porters and Fifties. Often hilarious (Cromin's time in France with Brad Pitt more often poignant, the book ends from Dublin to the denizens of Solu bohemia and stands with Brad Pitt-Ross's (also here) *Memories of the Forties* as a small monument to the Forties as a small monument to the Forties.

Combined elements

Macmillan Integrated Science Book 1. Edited by Mlek Michell. Macmillan Education £5.95. 0 333 36224 1. Extending Science 8. Life Worldwide. By Tessa Carrick. Stanley Thomas £2.15. 0 85950 553 7.

An ordinary looking book at first sight, *Macmillan Integrated Science* reveals closer inspection. The authors obviously have a deep understanding of their subject, and the ability to communicate it; this alone makes it stand out from many similar texts.

This is the first volume of a GCSE integrated science course; another pupils' book and a teacher's guide are to follow. The text is divided into five long units, which broadly follow traditional subject boundaries; much of the book is given over to physics. The first unit, Earth, is wide ranging, including sections on geology, minerals, astronomy, and an outstandingly good description of gravity. Biology receives very short shrift in unit 2, Cells and Organisms; a mere 31 pages from over 270. The approach is interesting though, emphasizing function as well as structure. However, much of this work is often covered in the lower school, sometimes in considerably more detail, and the same is true of unit 3, Energy, which includes forces, energy transfers, waves etc. and an interesting final section on



communication. Unit 4 gives more depth, with a comprehensive account of electricity and magnetism, from electrostatics to the national grid, with very lucid explanations throughout. The final unit deals mainly with physical chemistry - particles, formulae etc. Here, as in other parts of the book, the sequencing of the material is sometimes unconventional. It works, but it is sometimes difficult to scan through and find things; the index is essential. The approach and content are fairly traditional; much is description and explanation - exceptionally well done throughout. The instruction for practical work shows careful thought; even so, teachers may feel it is safer to demonstrate some experiments. Included in the text are some very interesting assignments, some dealing with applications, and often consisting of a short passage followed by some very stretching and some open-ended questions. The sections within units end with useful summaries and relatively straightforward questions. The text is well illustrated with black and

white photographs and diagrams, and pages are clearly set out in a two column format. The reading level and questions appear suitable for fourth years of average ability or above, but they may find, in places, too much repetition of lower school work. However, intelligent second and third years will also be able to make good use of this book, and it is certainly worthy of serious consideration by all science departments.

Another interesting read, for third years and above, is *Life Worldwide*, the latest addition to the Thomas Extending Science series (others in the series were reviewed on December 28, 1984 and September 20, 1985). This booklet is in the same format, generously spaced with good black and white illustrations, and it maintains the high standard of easy to read yet informative accounts of areas which support and develop standard syllabus material.

It describes plant and animal adaptations to life in five different environments, from tropical rain forest to the polar regions, with several explanations in terms of food webs, photosynthesis and volume/surface area ratios. The end of chapter questions are standard, but be prepared for the activities - have your brine shrimp eggs and cactus seeds to hand!

Lynne Marjoram

Early warning

Success with Science Early Learners. By Fay J Humphreys and John A Henderson. Blackie £4.50. 0 216 91902 9. Science 'early learner' books. By Bob Graham and Fay J Humphreys. Water £2.16 91896 0. Heat 91897 9. Senses 91898 7. Wheels 91899 5. Moving 91900 2. Sound 91901 0. Set of six books £216 91901 6. Blackie 75p each (£4.50 set of six).

The continuing emphasis by the DES on the scientific education of young children, and the response of publishers to that emphasis, has to be welcomed, for the roots of an ability to explore the world with interest and meaning grow in the infant school. However, getting children to develop inquiring minds and a scientific approach to things is hard work, so how much do "science early learners" help? There are six, 16-page storybooks in full colour for infant and early junior readers, accompanied by a 70-page teacher's handbook.

The authors are sound in their stated

reasons for teaching science and set about implementing these reasons through six standard science topics, water, heat, senses, wheels, moving and sound; each being not only the title of a storybook but also the subject of a main section of the teacher's handbook. Scientific concepts form the main content of the storybooks, for example the one on water, is mainly concerned with the concept of volume, and the storybook on sound with the fact that sounds are caused by vibrations. These gave me pause for thought. Does reading about Harry, in and out of his bath either on his own or together with his dog Albert, even though the illustrations show the resultant changes in water level, give children any understanding of volume? I'm sure the authors intend lots of practical experience to back each story up, for the teacher's text spells out suitable practical experiences that provide the concrete experience needed to bring about understanding. I also wondered if it was necessary, or even provident, with infants to say that "a sound... makes waves which spread

out in the air. You can't see these waves." Surely the experience of gathering sounds, and feeling where vibrations occur is enough.

The few suggestions for practical activities that occurred on the last page of each storybook were valuable, but it is a matter for regret that the illustrations in these children's books, even though in cartoon style, do not reflect the multi-ethnic society around us.

The teacher's handbook is straightforward with each section having a sensible and helpful introduction to the topic under consideration, followed by a suggested series of now standard, but reasonable, activities. These tend to appear in a rather prescriptive form but it should be possible for teachers to "lift" and drop them into fairly natural contexts. There are also suggestions for ways of linking the activities with other areas of the curriculum. Overall, a straightforward, if unexciting attempt to bring help to the cause of infant science.

Roy Richards

Advanced activities

Nuffield Advanced Science - Revised Editions: 1 Biology Practical Guide 3, Cells, Tissues, and Organisms in Relation to Water, 0 582 35429 3. 2 Biology Practical Guide 4, Co-ordination, Response and Behaviour, 0 582 35430 7. 7 Series Editor Grace Monger. Longman £2.95 each.

Practical Guide 3 contains 23 activities in three sections. The first part deals with the plant and water, covering for example anatomy and transpiration. Section two, the cell and water, covers water potential, diffusion, DPMs and osmosis. Section three involves work

on the urinary system. Points being made in section one seem rather laboured, particularly regarding imbibition. Section two would benefit from more activities especially as one of the practicals requires blood; many teachers are now unwilling or unable to use blood even at A level. It might have been helpful to provide a recipe for artificial urine as many students are less than overjoyed at the prospect of collecting and testing their own! Practical Guide 4 has 21 activities in four parts; co-ordination and communication, response to stimuli, behaviour, and the human brain and mind. The selection of activities is

varied and should interest the majority of students. The experiment on emotion should be great fun with enormous possibilities for extension work. The inclusion of elements of human psychology in the Nuffield syllabus is most welcome as the practical work is novel to teachers and pupils, and the topics will help students feel their studies are more relevant.

Many teachers will not use the frog nerve-muscle preparation in their teaching and it is a pity that the section on behaviour does little to encourage students to observe a greater variety of animals in the field.

Anne Cullen

Recall and reasoning

Illustrated Biology Questions for Homework and Revision, By Philip Booth and Geoffrey Hall. Heinemann £3.50. 0 435 59100 2.

This book has been written for the "current" (sic) GCSE examinations in biology. Even though it covers the four themes of the national criteria and the content of the approved syllabuses published to date there is not enough emphasis on the theme two, "interaction of organisms with the environment". There are only 16 questions in chapter 20, "The Balance of Nature", and there are questions which test recall, the

interpretation of data, understanding of concepts and deductive reasoning but there is no balance in the type of questions in each chapter. For instance, in chapter four, "Skeletal and Muscles", all 34 questions could be classified as testing recall, yet chapter 16's 37 questions on "Enzymes" are a mixture of types. The style of the questions is very similar to those found in current GCSE and CSE examinations and the specimen GCSE papers.

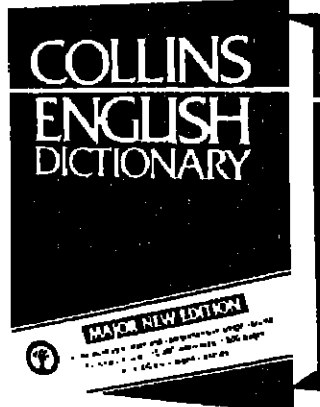
It is claimed that the chapters are constructed so that questions become progressively more difficult but this is not always apparent. A

strategy like this would help teachers differentiate tasks to pupils, so it is disappointing to find the authors saying "... for testing pupils of differing abilities whole chapters or parts of chapters are easily adapted." So much for investing in a book in the hope it will reduce your workload! However the book is a handy size and has excellent black and white line drawings. In spite of reservations about its suitability for GCSE - which applies to nearly all books appearing at the moment - it is worth getting one copy.

Jackie Hardie

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ARTS

Fables

Eleni (PG) Cannon, Haymarket
Mona Lisa (R) Odicon, Haymarket

Eleni is the forgettable true story of Nicholas Gage's search to uncover the circumstances of his mother's death at the hands of the Communists during the Greek Civil War. What he in fact finds out, through a series of unconvincing flashbacks, is that the past is irretrievable. Starting with an image of his mother frozen as she turns for a last look at her children, he ends with an image of The Mother, arms, aloft, crying, "My children!" as the soldiers open fire. Kate Nelligan has the unenviable task of playing Eleni, not as a real woman, but as an obsessive son's version of her.

It would be too much to expect that Peter Yates conceived the film in this sense, as pure fiction, rather than true story, distorted by the mania that drives Nikola (John Malkovich) to undertake his search. But it ends with the pretence that the experience has somehow enhanced Nikola's life, and since the audience has guessed both that he will eventually catch up with the man responsible for his mother's execution, and that he will not exact any revenge on him, it has little reason to stay beyond the first 10 minutes. There is the spectacular landscape of the Greek mountains, but even they will not look good on the video.

Mona Lisa is a morality about an old-fashioned petty criminal (Bob Hoskins) who comes out of jail and gets a job as chauffeur to high-class call girl (Cathy Tyson). Upward social mobility takes him into the underworld of porn barons (Michael Caine), kinky sex, exploited whores and vicious pimps. Innocent even in his racism, his attitudes to women, his dislike of "perverts" and his belief in the class system, he falls in love with his "black tar" and quixotically attempts to save her.

There is a twist at the end of this touching fable which seems inevitable only after the event. But the best of Mona Lisa is in the acting. Michael Caine, cynical and sinister, Cathy Tyson, as the deeply injured whore, and Bob Hoskins, making a rounded character out of a set of traditional values, should all look just as good on the video.

Robin Buss



Left: a scene at the chiroplast's, one of Joan Miró's earliest drawings, executed when he was eight; right: the young artist with his sister and parents. These images are from Miró: Ninety Years, a photographic portrait of the artist by Francesc Català-Roca, his friend and companion for 30 years (Macdonald £19.95).

The end of the rainbow

Ask for the Moon. By Shirley Gee. Hamlet Theatre.
The Lemmings are Coming. Riverside Studios.
Coriolanus. By William Shakespeare. Almeida Theatre.
The Magistrate. By Arthur Wing Pinero. National (Lyttelton) Theatre.

"You can't keep a child and work: that's asking for the moon" says a lady giving Shirley Gee's play its title in the well-made-play tradition. Constructed on two time scales, what seem to be two plays, *The Last*

Workers and *The Sweetshop* run in parallel, meet in a scene whose authorial defiance of logic while satisfying poetic licence, then divide again into the 1840s and 'the present time'.

Two groups of three women - separated by 145 years - united by exploitation in the clothing-trade - slave at piece-work for subsistence wages. The three lace workers have pride in their skills; the sweatshop employees are denied even that as breakneck time-quota and tawdry materials lead to shoddy products. "If you fall behind you'll drag us all down"

echoes across the centuries.

Ains, it doesn't work. *The Last Workers* is too full of information dialogue; *The Sweetshop* crams too much into one day (12 hours stage left) confusing 12 months stage right) giving its characters an artifice belying their biographical details. What saves the play is the blazing power of Brenda Bruce as the sweatshop's old Lil raging against loss of pride and wasted life, and Mona Hammond's Caribbean machist Carrie, perfectly observed and felt.

Good observation of speech and behaviour among young Scotsmen characterizes *The Lemmings* are Coming, originally improvised by "young unemployed" outside Glasgow in 1982. Five young men are in "London - the end of the rainbow" seeking "money, girls and pleasure". Occupying a cramped Battersea flat, they form a gang (the Lemmings) which disintegrates in rows, partings, disillusionment. Scenes of domestic disorder, peppered with gentle obscenities, produce easy laughs which come faster as the sole double-bedroom is hurriedly prepared for a grand seduction which never happens. Superfluous dialogue rages over politics, sex, drugs, work,

the dole, punks, parental control. Like Charlotte Hampton's clever cut-out set, the characters are two-dimensional. Parts of the text suggest improvisations allowed to overrun dramatic usefulness, and an unwillingness to cut any-body's best bit. The young company plays energetically but only the songs bite.

Youthful energy marks Kick Theatre's *Coriolanus* performed in a ring of boxes (RSC Maccbeth 1976) by a barefooted cast in dhoti trousers, looking like members of an impoverished ashram. This uniform underdressing makes it hard to distinguish plots from patricians, a difficulty compounded by doubling, and robs the play of martial pomp and ceremonial grandeur. Deborah Warner's direction conjures up interesting stage images (Audiolus met by condescending some spout by repetition) but the distant people plucked behind one's neck makes precedence over speech, and over meaning. Douglas Hodge makes Coriolanus the quintessential English public school head boy. Teachers, if not students, may welcome an uncut text. I found four hours overlong.

By contrast, I didn't want *The Magistrate* to stop. Pinero's old force

sparkles brilliantly under Mike Rudman's inspired direction. The Victorians at their own game of solemn assurance struggle with a crazily disavowed twist of the building laughter from traditionalization, neatly turned lines, more low comic business. Agatha Holt's white lie (dropping five years of age) and its deliciously absurd consequences never before seen perfect a subject for a play. Pinero's wit, it sparks off fun in good theatrical display.

Weighty upturns (Cot Tui establishes provenance; Sullivan's (Matthew Scott) points out Nigel Hawthorne's Magistrate a marvel of affable rectitude, his own pleasure. Bob Carlisle's big Bullyman, Terence Bayler's Nicholas le Prevost's Vale and his Pinks (Charlotte are wonderfully serious, riotously funny gossamer. Gemma Craven's Agatha, Ken St. Mesitler, Cyril Shap's Womans and Michael Delint's Lagg Hildes represent normality. This is a success and the best of British comic

John Jones

Patriotic pantomime

The Fair Maid of the West. RSC, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Scholarly accounts of Jacobean culture sometimes give the impression that the playhouse groundings of 17th-century London liked nothing better, after a hard day's work, than a thoughtful production of *King Lear*, possibly with *Timon of Athens* as a stimulating aperitif. Shakespeare's powers as a popular entertainer were, and are, considerable. But his original audience also liked a quite different sort of play, and Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* is a perfect example of it.

A patriotic pantomime, all thrills and spills, slapstick and swordfights; gagging and swaggering, it reminds one, by turns of *Dick Whittington*, *Dynasty*, *Gunsight at the OK Corral*, and *Carry On Up The Khyber*. The heroine, Bess Bridges, is a lovable West Country barnyard who caps her successful career in the licensed trade by cruising the Mediterranean in a private yacht (or rather, warship) in search of adventure and her long-lost lover Spencer. Greasy dagoes are put to the sword, at odds of four or five to one. Dusky Moroccans are, more subtly, overwhelmed by the nobility, beauty, and sheer spunkiness of these all-conquering English.

Sophisticated modern theatre-goers might easily recoil from such unpolished, bawdy, Trevor Nunn has cleverly outflanked them by staging it as a play-within-a-play. At the beginning of the evening we are offered *Henry V* and then *Troilus and Cressida*. Both are shouted down by the once demands for "Bess". The school, once dismissed, is approached with a demand for "Bess". The school, once dismissed, is approached with a demand for "Bess".

and mistimed entrances. Far from being imprudent, the production is in fact a marvellously sophisticated example of Nunn's genius for creating warmth, humour and colour on the stage. Peter Helethwaite, as the miles gossamer, Roughman, gives a magisterial performance which stands out as a very short head from the playing of gifted and superbly drilled company.

It's a marvellous evening's entertainment and I have only one quibble about it. The original play was a sequel. Trevor Nunn has combined the two into a single text, essentially transferring the Italian adventures of the second part to the Moroccan scenes of the first. The result is a coherent and captivating piece of theatre, but one which does not do justice to the original play's change of style between the two parts.

The Prince of Wales talked about Britain's multi-cultural society (The Falch Next Door, Channel 4, September 20), visited Handsworth, Australia, Fiji and a pop concert (In Private, in Public, ITV, September 21 and 22), but only really looked happy sitting at home in his walled garden or discussing the culinary properties of fudge.

These priorities were unimpressive: like the characters in *Eastenders*, the Royals, in their activities fully reported in the press, anyway, so television adds little except the pictures.

Television

Cheap thrills

On August 6, 1984 a man and a woman crossed the frontier between Yugoslavia and Italy by train. The man, travelling on a forged Moroccan passport, was taken off by the Italian police and, when searched, found to be carrying plastic explosives. His companion continued her journey and ultimately escaped.

It took Panorama over four minutes to recount this incident, in its investigation of the background to the bombings in France (*The Siege of Paris*, BBC1, September 22). Four minutes is a lot of broadcasting time which the producers would probably justify on the grounds that the arrest marked a significant stage in the uncovering of a Lebanese terrorist group. What is unjustifiable, in a serious current affairs programme, is the way it was presented. In the absence of any documentary film of the event, we were shown footage of moving trains, frontier police, railway guards, passing trains. Since this was hardly inspiring stuff, the police were viewed mysteriously through frosted glass, train passengers appeared as sinister silhouettes, we glimpsed fragments of faces, shot from low angles. Add haunting music and a few carefully edited sound effects. Finally, for the sake of immediacy, the commentary switched to the present and future tenses: "the story begins... the train will be boarded... it is to be an important moment."

The result was *The Day of the Jackal*, in miniature, conveying two messages through this merger of commonplace images with menacing effects. The person sitting opposite you on the train may not be an innocent foreign tourist. And if you are the terrorist, it is your job to conceal a brick of plastic explosive every detail of the most banal train journey will be transformed into a thrilling drama. Precisely because it was really adopting the techniques of fiction, it made a fine job of glamorizing the terrorist milieu.

That was probably not the intention. The programme set out to uncover the machinations of the French Secret Service and to describe the blackmail confronting the French Government since the imprisonment of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah. This story could only be inflated to occupy 40 minutes by using irresponsible dramatization and exaggeration. The French Premier was quoted out of context to suggest that the Republic is threatened; the title of the programme proclaimed that Paris is "under siege"; the opening credits were followed by scenes of funerals, grieving relatives and mangled bodies. Heavy on drama and short on analysis, it amounted to no more than a cheap political thriller.

The Paris bombings have caused eight deaths in two weeks, slightly higher than the average number killed every fortnight throughout the year in British industrial accidents. Diverse Reports (Channel 4, September 24) studied the working of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, and compared it to legislation in Norway where safety reps can put an immediate stop to any operation they consider hazardous. British law requires employers to draw up a safety policy which is made known to all their workforce, but current proposals for deregulating small firms, together with rising unemployment, a reduction in the factory inspectorate and a decline in trade union power, mean that the situation is unlikely to improve. They also underline the need for programmes like this which convey important information without trills, or important information without trills.

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Robin Buss

ARTS

Teen dreams

The Book Marketing Council is what it declares itself to be: an organization to promote the sales of books, books in general, books as products. This function must be regarded as somewhat reprehensibly by those whose job it is to evaluate books: critics, educators, above all, teachers. Education cannot simply be a matter of monitoring trends and plugging in to them; it must also be about sharing enthusiasms and widening horizons. But, on the other hand, a teacher or parent might be only too pleased that books, any books, are promoted as accessible and enjoyable, and the preserve of any one group. And it is possible, after all, that someone hooked on the Sweet Dreams series (Transworld) will eventually discover Jane Austen by gradually taking a more adventurous literary route. It is possible.

The BMC is about to launch "Teen Read", a campaign to promote teenage reading. The press release declares: "As the BMC's overall objective is to give books street credibility status, the campaign will not be associated with education, nor will it tell teenagers that reading is good for them." Fine, that is not the BMC's function (though they might have made the point more felicitously). What follows is a list of 100 books which, according to Maggie Van Reenen, Director of the BMC, "are proved by sales and loan information to be the most popular with teenagers themselves". This means books sold or loaned in the main, for teenagers. Acknowledged favourites not originally intended for this age group - *Ordinary Joe* and *When the Wind Blows* among them - are included, but we have no information on teenagers' choices of adult titles, whether Dickens or Jackie Collins.

If this list does represent teenage reading, however, and if there isn't a hidden preponderance of series books (Blackthorn's quiz books, Dragon Warriors adventure game books and

the Sweet Dream romances each appear as single entries) there is plenty to reassure the English teacher here. Margaret Mahy, sophisticated stylist as well as gripping story teller appears several times; Janis Hawker's timeless *Badger on the Barge* and classic fantasists Susan Cooper and Tolkien are included as well as critics' favourites (not necessarily a death knell) like Joan Lingard, Bernard Ashley, Nina Baym and Robert Westall. Notable absentees include Jan Mark, Alan Garner and Leon Garfield.

Last Sunday the *Observer* published an article under the attention-grabbing headlines: "Read all about it... kids go for sexy books". It goes on to list books from the 100 which deal with controversial subjects and to describe outrage in some quarters that they may be promoted. But books must be seen in context. Why is it that plenty of thoughtless bad-hopping is allowed to go on in the television corner of the room while a book which contains a sexy episode - whatever the context - gives rise to calls for censorship? Better, surely, to teach them how to read *Blame's Forever* than to return to the days when people rifled through *Lady Chatterley* to look for the mighty bits and ignored the rest of the novel. Teenagers are - and always have been - immensely curious about sex and about their own physical and emotional changes. It would be strange if they were not and, being so central to their interests, it is an area that could scarcely be ignored by writers for this age group. And it does not, in any case, inform every favourite title by any means.

The next stage of the campaign will be the selection, by a jury of 12 teenagers, of a shortlist of 20 from the 100 titles on the list. Mothers, teachers, booksellers, publishers, librarians and critics will also be invited to come up with their own top 20 to provide interesting comparisons.

Heather Neill

Literary competition

Competition No 79. Report by Seylla. You were asked for a dimming rejection report on a famous novel and some of you seem to have enjoyed the feeling of power this gave you. Is it possible that there is a strong view that some of the standard classics should be themselves. Minor family upheavals are no substitute for political bloodbaths or intimate sexual revelations. Frankly, age and adolescence are not amusing topics: your diarist (as unheroic a protagonist as I have ever encountered) offers no sociologically relevant insights, no original experience, no answers to the problems of contemporary youth culture. Drugs and sex draw readers: intellectual pretensions do not.

I regret that we cannot accept your manuscript as I can see no future for *The Diary of Adrian Mole* (13/9). D A Prince

Animal Farm

Dear Mr Orwell. The manuscript of your tale is returned herewith. Before saying anything about its content I would suggest that you would be well advised to consider carefully as to which publisher is likely to handle a work of this nature. You may surely realise that a serious firm such as we are, with a reputation for polemical and political works and with no "children's department" cannot be expected to entertain anything which in every way so alien to our usual publications.

A cursory inspection of the books in the Junior Fiction section of any good library or book-shop will tell you which of a number of quite reputable houses might be more inclined to consider your little Farm book.

Yours etc,

Hazel Stanley

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Dear Mr Joyce. Our readers have now reported on your *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and in light of their verdict we cannot accept your kind offer of the work. As a school story it lacks the pace of Ian Hay or Alec Waugh. A better known type of school story background, say Eton, Harrow or Rugby, would have helped, and you omit games! What wonder that there is consequently an unhealthy streak in your hero, to put it mildly?

We would always be prepared to consider a manuscript by you that deals with more normal youth and has a strong cricket or rugby interest.

George Moor

Competition No 80. Set by Charybdis. The recent publication of yet another posthumous novel by Barbara Pym, written during her years of rejection, shows her attempting (but, in the opinion of most reviewers, failing) to grapple with more up-to-date subject matter than was her wont. Please supply up to 175 words from any famous *dead* novelist who, suddenly reincarnated, is trying desperately to assimilate contemporary modes, manners and machines. Closing date: October 20.

Paul Griffin

The Diary of Adrian Mole (13/9)

Dear Ms Townsend

What the diaries of the famous - Richard Crossman, Harold Nicolson

Spotlighting the Other

"To be multicultural must not mean to be on the fringe," John Agard, the Guyanese poet, called for more limelight for the Other Award at its presentation ceremony in the Royal Festival Hall last week. He was advocating sponsorship from publishers so that the Other Award for children's books, now in its twelfth year, could give a money prize - something that the judges have always resisted.

Agard, who was one of this year's winners with *Say It Again Granny*, a collection of Caribbean proverbs, argued that money would bring more media attention to the prize. And he brought a flavour of the Caribbean to the ceremony as Other Award chairperson Grace Hallworth said, by his performance of some of his poems.

Earlier, Rosemary Stones had lamented the "homophobic" stirred up about the book *Johnny lives with Eric and Martin*, by which education secretary Kenneth Baker's remarks were partly responsible. She describes the book, which one Haringey parents' group is threatening to burn, as "just another book showing a different family lifestyle".

As well as *Say It Again Granny* (Bodley Head) the Other Award was given to *The Bus Driver* by Anne Stewart (Husham Hamilton). *The People Could Fly* by Virginia Hamilton (Walker Books) and *Starry Night* by Catherine Sefton (Husham Hamilton).

Mary Hoffman

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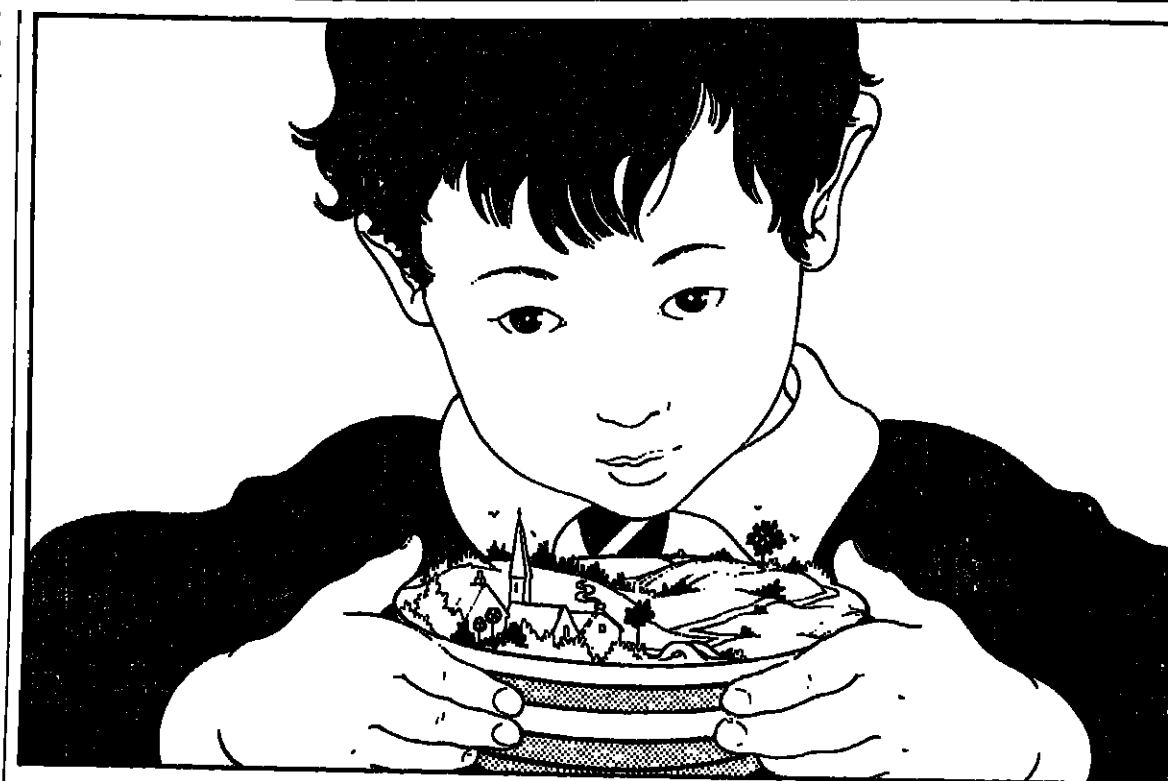
The multi-million pound Domesday Project hopes to launch its videodiscs and special hardware by the end of the year. It is the product of two years of intense preparation, colossal efforts in data collection by school children and others throughout the UK, and at least £2.5 million invested jointly by BBC Enterprises, Philips Electronics and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The end-product will be rather different from the predictions. At the first launch in November 1984, the BBC said that the Domesday discs would run on a BBC Micro (with second processor), that the player and discs would cost £1,100 and that the new player would become "the new accepted standard for educational and institutional use". This immodest claim refers to AIV - "Advanced Interactive Video". On a wave of enthusiasm, 14,000 schools volunteered to help in the massive task of creating the "People's Database" and 12,500 of these actually delivered information.

Two years later, it has emerged that in addition to the special videodisc player, you need a specially-adapted BBC Master AIV Micro, a special monitor and preferably a trackerball, while upgrading a standard BBC Micro is technically possible, the cost makes it pointless. However, Research Machines Ltd are to offer an MS-DOS software version for their Nimbus, breaking the Acorn monopoly. The exact price of the complete Acorn-based system is still uncertain but will be well beyond the reach of most schools: figures in the range of £3,500-£3,800 have been quoted but the BBC is trying hard to get this reduced, at least to education.

BBC Enterprises now emphasize the possible market in commerce and industry for their "extraordinary desktop reference work". It has just produced an excellent little videodiscette for loan to interested organizations. Presenter Nick Ross talks through a mock-up system and demonstrates how the database might be interrogated and the results presented. Data are included from the 1981 Census, the General Household Survey, the Family Expenditure Survey and Social Trends. Visual information includes the Ordnance Survey maps and, on the 60-minute CLV moving video side, coverage of recent national events from the BBC's own news and documentaries. Nick Ross shows how you can zoom in on a locality from the UK map using the trackerball, and conveys how easily the software allows keyword searching and pictorial display of statistical results.

Alas, viewing this cassette is as close as many schools will get to the Domesday database. The DTI's software subsidy of £215 will scarcely cushion the shock of a price that only the most affluent schools could afford. According to a DTI spokesman, there



Begging questions

Jacquetta Megarry argues that the high price of equipment may exclude schools from the fruits of the Domesday Project

are no plans to subsidize hardware purchase, but the DTI "has been encouraged by the response" so far to presentations made to L.E.A.s. However, one assistant director doubted whether his authority (one of the country's largest) would buy more than an experimental system or two - unless media coverage spurred parents to massive fund-raising for the purpose.

Admittedly, the system cost is unlikely to deter businesses - which until recently might have paid that sort of money for an IBM PC. But for serious use in market research - selling vodka is the example suggested on the videodiscette - surely any business will want an assurance of access to regularly-updated information? Although the project has a two-year extension and BBC Enterprises hope to produce at least one updated disc, that hope is a slender basis for hard-headed business investment in a proprietary system. Anyway, it remains to be seen whether schools will be equally willing to participate in updating the database now they know they can't afford the

hardware. This, then, is the Domesday dilemma. The education market can see the potential but can't afford the solution; business can afford the hardware but do not perceive the problem.

Responding to the dilemma expressed by schools over purchase price, one enterprising publishing house has made a subset of the Domesday data accessible on floppy disc. RESOURCE, the legacy of Microelectronics Education Programme in South Yorkshire and Humberside, has collapsed the original 67 categories of information into a manageable 18, thus fitting local data on to a single 40-track floppy disc. Complete with teacher's notes and user guide, it sells for £9.95. RESOURCE offers a similar service to other L.E.A.s who wish to make Domesday data available to their own schools.

The Domesday keyword software seems to provide a model for powerful and friendly access to a mass of data. It may - directly or indirectly - inspire substantial improvements in database software. And schools throughout the

country seemed to enjoy the data collection software. But a multi-million pound project should not be judged by its spin-offs alone, however positive.

The fundamental question surrounding a project that proclaims "a dramatic technical innovation" is whether they have got the system right. I seriously doubt it. There is no provision for sound over still frame and the only sound on three of the four sides is a generalized help commentary; even on the moving video side the sound track is stereo not dual. "Advanced Interactive Video" is not really IV at all; rather, it's a brilliantly searchable, profusely illustrated but largely silent database.

With the wisdom of hindsight, compact disc (CD) looks a more promising vehicle for such data. CD players are cheap, compact and selling strongly worldwide. Standards agreed by the High Sierra group (announced in Las Vegas early this year) allow data to be read from CD-ROM (compact disc read only memory) irrespective of the operating system in use.

Furthermore a 12cm CD-ROM disc of 600 megabytes - nearly double the capacity of a 30cm Domesday disc - because they are robust, cheap, easy to post, monthly or quarterly postings provide a distributed alternative to on-line access to central databases.

Had Domesday employed CD-ROM as a component, it would have benefited from tumbling market prices instead of paying the inflated price of the one-off project. CD players have been in use for over £1,000 to around £200 in the last couple of years; there are now portable, players with standard SCSI interfaces, even drive that read data of sound interchangeably.

Compact Disc Interactive (CDI) has already shown that compact discs can store, retrieve and interchange digitized (still) pictures, not a stereo sound. Work is already in progress to pull pictures off the disc fast enough to give moving pictures, though this could only be in a disc which is digitized with one disc capacity fast. However, it suggests the immense potential of integrated random-access systems: allowing television video with CD-ROM under computer control.

The LaserVision format could random-access display of any video and still frame; meanwhile drive could read CD-ROM data; provide CD sound over still frame. Combine the two in a single disc (perhaps putting them in a single disc) and you have a really decent technical innovation. Interestingly, Philips spokesman did not dismiss the notion as impractical; indeed he predicted that many combinations would be developed within the next few years.

Both the BBC and Philips mentioned considerable foreign interest in Domesday, from as far as Switzerland and Australia. However, smaller countries might be able to present and access information in less ambitious but perhaps fitting it on floppy disc using the new generation of cheap discs.

While Acorn/Olivetti probably hopes to sell its own bank abroad, it seems more likely that countries will prefer to emulate the MS-DOS software on their own hardware.

The Domesday database is a superb imaginative celebration of Domesday. But a modular system based on production components would be more flexible in suiting local national needs than an expensive monolithic package. The AIV package is not the way forward for interactive video.

Videos and Broadcasting Extra 10 43-54

bits

MASTER SOFTWARE

Clares Micro Supplies have announced the release of six programs for the new Acorn Master Compact. Airroom is an art package written by the programmer of the very successful Fleet Street Editor which enables the user to "draw" on the whole screen; Fontwise Plus is a more sophisticated version of Fontwise which provides high quality dot matrix print and Beta-Base is a random access database system. Clares has also launched Ramrod, Macro and Brom Plus, three toolkits for the Master Compact. Further information from: Clares Micro Supplies, 98 Middlewell Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7DA.



AVP COMPUTING

New software from AVP Computing includes Canal Builder, an educational historical simulation set in the 1970s; Powergraph, described as "an extremely powerful and versatile utility for the plotting of experimental points" and Darts Games, a series of programs using simulated darts games to provide practice in arithmetic. Further information from: AVP Computing, Hocker Hill House, Chestow, Gwent NP6 5ER.

Storyboard II

Wordstore £29.95 plus VAT. Wida Software, 5 Nicholas Gardens, London W5 5HY. Wordplay BBC Soft £12.50. All for BBC Micro.

All three of the programs reviewed below involve the user in working with words. The first allows a piece of text eg a poem, to be typed into the computer so that the next user can try to reconstruct it. The second allows the user to create a personal dictionary or wordstore using the computer, which can then be saved on disc. The third provides an introduction to word-processing for young children. All three programs are examples of content-free software which can be used in almost any subject.

Storyboard is a later version of a type of program first developed by Wida software in 1982 and made famous by the Tray program now used in a number of schools. The principle of Storyboard II (and now Tray) is simple. A short piece of text is blanked out on the screen leaving (say) only the title. The user then has to reconstruct the text by guessing words and letters. Gradually the text emerges, making more and more sense, until the whole

Basic Principles of Microeconomics: Demand and Supply and Competition By Mike Butterley. BBC disc £19.50 + VAT. AVP Computing, Com 5th, Hocker Hill House, Chestow, Gwent.

Yes Chancellor by Tom Tuitt. £17.50 BBC disc. Chalksoft Ltd. PO Box 49, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 1NZ.

Stock Market Speculator Spectrum £12.95 Amstrad £17.95 Collins Soft, 8, Grafton St. London W1X 3LA.

The eight Basic Principles programs pitched at Advanced Level standard will help students to reinforce their understanding of neo-classical microeconomics. "Utility maximisation and derivation of a demand curve" is designed to ensure that students can use the theoretical model of utility maximisation and thereby derive an explanation for downward-sloping demand curves. Apart from the irritating use of sound (which thankfully can be turned off) the program is very well designed to ensure that students really understand this model, which they often find difficult. Despite the programmed learning style, students have to be active in responding to the program's directions.

The remaining programs cover demand and supply in competitive markets, the effects of indirect taxes, and the demand for capital and labour. "Competition" (available for £12 + VAT as a separate disc: com 6) deals with revenue maximisation in imperfect competition, profit maximisation in perfect competition, the relationship between marginal and average economic variables, and profit maximisation using marginal productivity theory.

Basic principles

David Whitehead on economics

Designed to be used either by individual students or by groups, these programs will complement the standard teacher or textbook exposition. While not going beyond orthodox treatment, they at least encourage students to involve themselves actively with the theory.

Yes Chancellor is billed as "an amusing and realistic management simulation game for ages 11 to adult", a description which is accurate apart from the word "realistic." The program begins with letters from "Maggie" to the Chancellor, and from him/her accompanied by the clatter of typing in the background; no wordprocessor at Number 10? Then Big Ben chimes. Despite these clichés, the program is quite amusing, and does have some economic pay-offs.

The variables in the economic model are linked by a set of equations and random numbers which, according to the author, reflect economic principles combined with the unpredictable events of the real world. Tom Tuitt, a former civil servant in the Inland Revenue, covers himself by suggesting to teachers that there is much, or more, to be learned from picking holes in the program as from playing the game unthinkingly.

One decision involves deciding whether to grant workers their desired pay increase or to hold out in order to reduce inflation. Experimented with a six percent pay offer, which resulted in a strike for some eight decision rounds. However, eventually the strike collapsed and I won 300 votes! Nevertheless, my economy collapsed with stagnation after four years and my govern-

ment had to resign. Participants also have to decide on the level of taxation, what to borrow and details of the annual budget. The level of interest rates has to be manipulated, and the government must decide what aid to give the industry.

The teacher's notes provide some useful hints on how students might be encouraged to pursue a particular strategy consistently, in order to investigate its long-term effects. Alternatively, they might implement unpopular decisions at the start and then be more generous as an election approaches. Intensive class use of this simulation would enable teachers to capitalise on its merits.

I studied Stock Market Speculator with a microcomputer expert, who agreed with me that it was unclear how to operate it. Perhaps confirmed Sinclair Spectrum buffs would know what keys to press without being told, but I would have been lost without my specialist guide. My first task was to "select initial personnel" - rather inappropriate language for the "absolute beginner" at whom the program is aimed. The user has to buy and sell shares, and respond to financial news and trends, involving 48 companies from which a portfolio may be developed.

I found the program very frustrating, and not nearly as much fun as the non-computerized Stock Exchange Game played with a committee of pupil speculators in the 1960s. Neither of course taught much economics: just an empathetic appreciation of what it must be like to make money, in a world where mistakes cost nothing.



Working with words

by Jerry Wellington and Clive Opie

passage becomes clear. The principle is simple but the program is educationally superb.

The program can be used right across the curriculum from English (with say a poem) to science and even mathematics. It could be used with a wide range of abilities and ages. It is relatively easy to use. (There is a valuable facility allowing the use of Wordwise or View files - although only 19 lines of text).

The utilities for printing, transferring, renaming, deleting and reordering text are also thoughtful additions. The first four of these only stimulate standard DFS operations, but they ensure that everything is carried out using normal English instructions. The re-ordering is not a standard DFS operation. It allows you to re-order the list of texts as they come up on the screen. This latter facility will prove very useful especially, to quote, "for those teachers who want texts to appear to their students in a particular order".

Wordstore is also a valuable program for pupils of a wide range of abilities and ages. It allows the user to build up a list of words, a definition of the meanings and a sentence in which the word is used. We can see many uses for this program especially in areas where specialized words are used, for example in science.

However, the manual is not as well laid out as Storyboard. You actually need to study the quick reference guides on pages two and three first to get started. We would rather have seen fuller notes on page six and the reference guides at the back (where they normally come).

Otherwise we found the program friendly and the instructions clear and precise. This program is available in French, German and Spanish and the booklet suggests that printing in these languages incorporates accents. If they do these could be very useful.

We would strongly recommend both programs. One small point is worth noting. Both programs use 80 track

discs, which may pose a problem for some users. We wonder if they are available on 40 track with consequent drop in storage capacity.

It is difficult not to be complimentary about the third program, Wordplay, although a tremendous amount of work must have gone into its design and programming. The program is, to quote from the foreword: "meant to help you get to know about word-processing without (my underlining) using too many fancy words".

Rather than make things easier we would suggest that it makes them a lot harder. The program uses a range of characters, eg Kasper, Kangaroo, Marius Mouse and, wait for it, Petrus Pelican to highlight certain word-processing operations. The manual requests that for each character you type in a piece of prose to describe what it does eg for Marius Mouse we get:

Says Marius Mouse, "I run up the screen. My feet are sweet, my whiskers clean. I ask you dear reader, is there

anyone better, than a Mouse in the house removing a letter?"

We cannot see that typing this in will help children.

When any of the characters is activated using the function keys it performs its operations. Marius Mouse picks up a letter and drops it in a bit-slowly and laboriously. Selma Seagull (the program is produced by the BBC you note) removes a word but loses it a letter at a time - anything over four letters long and you fall asleep waiting for it to finish.

Most of the other options work in a similar way and we cannot say that we are really impressed by any of them. The manual states on its inside cover: "An animated wordprocessor for children of all ages." We disagree.

Children would need to be at least eight or nine to be able to use this and by then they could use a word-processor such as Wordwise. Even if this one does have pretty pictures, do they really do anything for the learning process? We think not. Children may find it amusing and entertaining with its superb graphics. But, and this is a general question which could be asked of numerous items of educational software, do we really need another program of this type? Does education really need another wordprocessor?

Chemical properties

several occasions.

Graham McCue's organic nomenclature program overcomes these problems brilliantly. The computer performs a random generation of alphabetic organic structures containing various functional groups, either alone or in combination. It works out the name in accordance with IUPAC conventions and then invites the user to type in the name. Each correct letter appears on the screen and receives a quiet beep of approval. Incorrect letters get a lower pitched beep and do not appear on the screen. After three such failures, the correct letter or symbol appears from the bottom of the screen and takes its place in the name. Fully correct answers with no mistakes are rewarded with EXCELLENT; typing in a few errors produces VERY GOOD; and a muddled attempt with much computer help finally produces CORRECT.

The program operates at eight levels of difficulty from unsubstituted alkanes via branched chains, carboxylic acids, aldehydes and ketones to

amines, and nitriles. The user can select a particular level or can have examples chosen from anywhere up to that level. Consistent correct responses soon result in a suggestion to move up to the next level. The nomenclature rules for each level of compounds are summarized clearly with examples and a help facility is available to revise the rules at any time.

Overall this is an excellent package. My only minor criticisms are that the main functional group always seems to appear on the right of the longest chain and the facilities for making a backup disc are poor and failed on my copy. Sadly, the program does not work on Master Series machines.

Periodic Properties is a database package. It is unprotected, allowing backup discs to be made, data files to be edited and additional data files to be added. It comes with files containing 13 properties (mp, bp, radii, ionisation energies, bond energies etc) of 103 elements and has various ways of displaying the data. Data can be

tabulated and the tables scrolled up the screen to reveal the values required. Data can be displayed as histograms superimposed on a periodic Table or one item of data can be plotted on a Cartesian graph against any other chosen item.

I found the histograms a little impressive; the space available on the display is too small to allow detailed difference to be shown. When two items of data are shown for each element, the two histograms are scaled differently from each other, hence their ionisation energies sometimes appear smaller than second.

The Cartesian graphs, however, are superb. Any pair of properties can be plotted against each other, or any one can be plotted against atomic number.

The user can select all 103 elements, a range of atomic numbers, a series of elements (transition elements, lanthanides or actinides), or a Group of elements (s- or p-block). Thus the familiar atomic volume or ionisation energy curves can be displayed rapidly or third ionisation energies can be

plotted across the first transition series (why does Mn have Mn^{2+} while Fe forms both Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+}). More importantly, less widely publicised trends can be investigated. Large atoms, for instance, would be expected to have small ionisation energies. How true is this when applied indiscriminately across 103 elements? Is electronegativity heavily dependent on radius, or on first ionisation energy? Facts to back up a class discussion on relationships between these quantities are now readily available, and easily displayed in an attractive form. The possibilities are endless.

The booklet accompanying the disc provides full details of the facilities available but it is not essential for an initial "play" with the program. It gives some useful suggestions for using the program with classes, including the Mendeleev Game in which some properties are deleted from the data files and predicted by students. Full details are also given for preparing additional data files, making backup copies and versions which cannot be edited. This is a piece of software which should be in every Chemistry Department with a BBC micro. Sadly, it, too, does not work on the Master Series.

Alan Vincent

Taped maths

Extra Maths by David Shaw. Chartwell Associates, PO Box 54, Bromley BR1 2WR. Single programmes £5.95 + p&p; complete set £66 post free

Extra Maths is a series of 12 programmes aimed to support candidates preparing for a typical GCE O level examination. Each programme consists of a taped lesson of approximately 45 minutes duration, accompanied by a work-book. The commentary and text together offer a step-by-step approach to some of the more common syllabus topics, including algebra, trigonometry, graphs, matrices, and statistics.

The publishers claim that this series "brings expert private tuition within everyone's reach". And indeed the tapes' smooth, friendly voice talking with gentle authority feels very reassuring at first. But in reality this is no more than a talking text book. After all, a tutor's first task is to listen and probe to ascertain whether a student's examination goals are at all realistic. It is often said that the best tutors ask more questions than they answer, certainly they monitor progress and decide the next phase of the "diet" accordingly, but these tapes just drone on and on like the worst classroom practitioners.

Simon Reif

Harvest and hunger

With harvest celebrations looming next month, food based projects are proving popular in primary school. Oxfam in Wales is seeking to introduce a worldwide perspective into such studies, with new resource material for primary teachers which was introduced recently at a Cardiff seminar. Ideas for both class work and assembly were suggested, with the intention of demonstrating that we are dependent on other parts of the world for our food. Harvest is a good time to remember this.

"The World on the Breakfast Table" is Oxfam's way of illustrating the point in class. Pupils discuss the country of origin of the food they have had for breakfast, before plotting the country and its produce on a world map. After learning that tea comes from India, coffee from Brazil, orange juice from Morocco and cornflakes from America, they realize only dairy products are home produced," said Alison Herd, Oxfam's Education Officer.

Visiting a supermarket and listing which foods come from where reinforces the theme, and leads pupils onto a study of the world's staple foods and the conflicts which produces them. Development education, and geography, are not the only topics covered by the project. The potato study worksheet for example, includes cookery suggestions and explains how to make potato prints.

Gradually pupils come to question whether there is sufficient food in the

world for everyone. Oxfam investigates this issue via a simulation game "The World Feast Game" which links food production and the question of unfair distribution and illustrates how the latter rather than the lack of food is the real cause of hunger.

Food and agricultural production in individual Third World countries are also studied. After meeting a Bangladeshi family, pupils learn that good nutrition is vital for good health and, using Ghana as an example, they compare traditional African agricultural techniques with modern mechanized farming.

Further suggestions on the food project and other Oxfam primary material, including slides, videos and books are available from the charity's teachers' resources centre in Cardiff, and Alison Herd hopes that Oxfam's development education work will become a regular part of South Glamorgan's in-service training provision.

For the future, Oxfam in Wales is seeking both to present more exhibitions in schools and to assist teachers create their own development education curricula. For in addition to help with the preparation of resource material, the charity can also provide small educational grants to cover project development and publishing costs.

Iola Smith

notes

LONDON'S TRANSPORT

Over and Under is a new resource pack on London's transport, past and present. It is designed for use at school for the 9-12 year old age group and includes illustrated information on the changes in transport systems, from horse drawn vehicles to the underground system in use today.

Available for the 14+ age group are two publications entitled "Let's Look At The Underground Map" and "Let's Look At A Bus Timetable". The packs contain exercises based on the Underground Map and a bus timetable together with route planning and estimating journey time exercises. The packs are available from the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London. Price £2.95 and 60p respectively.

PEOPLE IN BRITAIN

People in Britain is the sixth in a series of booklets published by OPCS. It has been specially prepared for schools and colleges with sixth forms, GCE A level and undergraduate courses and shows the distribution of people employed in manufacturing industries, finance, government and other services in 1987, together with changes in the proportions

of women, types of jobs held by them and the proportions of people economically active in each occupation group out of employment in 1981. The booklet is available free to schools from OPCS Information Branch, 2, Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2R 6LP.

MARKETING FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Marketing Further and Higher Education is the title given to the new publication Longman Resources Unit. Divided into five sections the handbook is intended as a source of guidance on marketing concepts and techniques for all those in the further education system. The handbook is available from the Longman Resources Unit, 62 Halfhead Road, Layerthorpe, York YO3 7XQ.

CHILD ABUSE

The Mental Health Film Council is proposing to hold a one day seminar on Child Abuse on November 11, from 10.00am-4.30pm at the BLAT Centre, Heath and Medical Education, 200, Heath Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT98 3JL. Those attending will be able to view films and videos on the theme and will be given an opportunity to discuss them and exchange ideas using the media for educational and training purposes. Further details available from MHFC, 380-384, Regent Road, London W8 2HU.

The Education Roadshow
Radio 4 VHF
Sundays 4-5.30pm, until Oct. 12

The Education Roadshow has been on the road since September 6, visiting Plympton in Devon, Wandsworth in South-West London, and South Manchester in its first three weeks. Each Sunday afternoon an audience of parents and local professionals sits down with a panel of experts to a session of question, comment and answer designed to air the concerns of the vast army of normally voiceless education consumers.

Will GCSE affect academic standards? How do teachers deal with lazy pupils? How can children be helped to make the right subject choices? Should education be vocational? How confident are confidential reports? A surprisingly large number of questions are dealt with, and with headteachers and education committee chairpersons nailed to their seats in the school hall, surprisingly few sparks fly. There was the Manchester mother who seized the chance to confront a headmaster before the nation on the topic of why he'd refused to let her daughter do GCSE English Literature. (She still didn't get satisfaction.) There was the ripple of incredulity which greeted Frances Morrell's suggestion that the size of class you'd be likely to find in an ILEA primary school is 15 or less. (She conceded that perhaps here in Wandsworth it might be a bit higher.) But there were no howls of outrage when a headmaster inadvertently claimed "Anti-racism is something that we don't want here" - everyone knew he really meant the opposite.

But parents' worries are real and continuing, and perhaps the major concern which came out of all of the first three programmes, which dealt with nursery, primary and secondary education, was about communication between school and parents. Parents want to be informed, sometimes consulted, but above all involved in what



Frances Morrell and Ted Wrang



On the road

by Jessica Saraga

goes on at school. Again and again, parents voiced their perception that standards were falling, a perception that the experts simply refused to countenance. But the fact that this perception is so widespread, and that it goes hand in hand with a distrust of so-called progressive methods, must cause schools concern.

The experts, led on each occasion with wit and urbanity by Professor Ted Wrang, insist that parents should keep trying. Go into school early. Go before you get cross. Volunteer as a parent governor. At Plympton parents and teachers were quite suddenly bonded together by the necessity of building a new classroom which the authority couldn't afford. The venture had a positive outcome, but nobody thought it should have happened. Nobody, either, thought parents should raise £40 million pounds a year in England

and Wales for their children's schools, as a representative from the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education popped up to say that they do. The 1944 Act, as Devon's Chief Education Officer pointed out, says education must be provided free.

The Education Roadshow got its act together well from programme one. Presenter Eric Robson keeps it slick, marshalling questions from all round the hall, and interspersing proceedings with previously recorded reports, and interludes by comics Malcolm Williamson and Stuart Silver, who trace the mythical school career of one Darren Plunge. Whether parents go home or switch off with lightened concern, though, is debatable. A chance to pin down the professionals is welcome, but concern on an issue so vital, so personal, and so political, doesn't go away that easily.

'Not dead yet'

SCHOOLS RADIO
Safety First
Broadcast September 17-19

This series consists of an hour's total listening time on safety matters which will send any sane person into a state of nervous anxiety about every aspect of life. Though, as we observe in one of the drama-stories, even after a bad accident, normal carelessness is resumed as soon as possible. However, if only a few of the safety suggestions recommended in these programmes hit home, they could save lives and limbs. There are three main themes: safety in the home, at work and in the factory, - a drama and a documentary allocated to each giving six, bite-sized ten-minute units.

The holiday drama is the most successful, involving the listener with the story and stopping just short of tragedy at sea to allow the audience to finish the scenario (in ways no doubt far more gruesome than anything the BBC could dream up).

The documentary sections run in parallel to the drama with interviews with a ROSPA representative and casualty nurses involved with the sad results of accidents at home and at work. A constable and a spokesman from the Cornish police force give their point of view of some of the dangers of the holiday season. One of the interviewees laughs off dangerous practices with the well-worn phrase about having got away with it for 30 years and "not dead yet" - an obviously silly attitude, we would agree. It's safe practice into our own everyday routines, but it is certainly worth being reminded about our responsibilities regarding health and safety.

There is a 32 page pupils book with some jolly accident-prone illustrations with questions, puzzles and safety exercises.

Francesca Greenoak

Really useful

Victoria Neumark reviews 'an upbeat approach to multicultural education'

Continuing Education
Here and Now
ITV
Sundays 1 pm
Produced by Central TV.

Here and Now returns on the Sunday lunchtime slot with its upbeat and sensitive approach to multi-cultural concerns. Though the presenter's approach is a little formal, the content is still sensitive and accessible over a wide range of minority cultures.

A recent programme was entirely devoted to "Vera's return Home". Evoking the changes that a couple of decades had wrought for the inhabitants of Evesham, St Vincent's. As one might have hoped, people were left to speak for themselves in their own surroundings with no patronising conclusions being drawn from them. Reverting to the more usual magazine format, on September 21 *Here and Now* spoke to the visiting Dance Theatre of Harlem, continued its serialization of the Ramayana, and interviewed people involved in a project which sent unemployed youngsters to Belize.

Most inspiring was the dancer, Arthur Mitchell. Eloquent in body and voice, Mr Mitchell spoke of how he came to form the world's premier black ballet. Dance is his passion and he spoke of it like a lover. "When a baby is in the womb, it kicks, kicking is movement, and movement is dance". His idea, that the first black person to succeed in any art must always be

superlatively good, may not be generally accepted, but his hopes that the English youngsters he has been talking to the States since 1974 will return and "ignite" a similar company here must be shared.

The choice of Indonesian paintings to accompany *Here and Now's* serialization of the Ramayana is the only feature to strike a jarring note. Though the paintings are charming - the conference of the monkeys on Hanuman's attempts to rescue Sita had a particular tender humour - the subject has been largely treated in the paintings of mainland India, and there are very few Indonesians here.

Inspired by the Mayor of Birmingham's words on unemployment and poverty in the Third World, Graham Gotsill, under the aegis of ACAFESS (Afro Caribbean Association for Economic and Social Security) arranged for 16 young people to visit Belize and complete a half finished old people's home there. Out of 100 applicants, the 16 who could best cope with skinning a rabbit, gutting a mackerel, and building a wall on a poor diet with no fags, were selected. The three who talked in the programmes, though amazed at the heat "like a hairdryer at the back of your throat", were obviously so elated by their experience, so illuminated by what they had seen in Belize, that the skills and awareness gained from being challenged to be *pace* Thomas the Tank engine! Really Useful ought to serve as a pointer for YTS and company.

4

Titles Available For Recording From Sunday 5 October 1986
Approximate Transmission Times.

Sunday 3 October
2.00 Everybody Here - Repeat The First

Friday 10 October



A detail from Hieronymus Bosch's 'Christ Crowned with Thorns'.

Onion-layers

Michael Clarke on
'The Secret Life of Paintings'

The Secret Life of Paintings.
BBC2, Saturdays 6.20pm
The Secret Life of Paintings.
A book by Richard Foster and Pamela Tudor-Craig
Boydell Press £14.95.

There is no denying that Dr Pamela Tudor-Craig, Lady Wedgwood, is herself one of the key attractions in this new five-part series. Dressed in a paraphrase of an eighteenth-century gentleman's frock-coat and breeches, she emerges from a foggy past to bring enlightenment to present-day viewers of Renaissance art.

Convinced that "paintings were never meant to be the captives of museums," Lady Wedgwood is equally sure that, "with careful detective work and just a little imagination, we may still unlock their secrets". And so, like the picture restorer who wipes away centuries of darkened varnish to reveal vivid colours and long-hidden details, she reinvests her chosen works with something of their original emotional impact and richness of meaning.

not by super-imposing our concerns on those of the artist but by the paradoxical process of pursuing what was authentic to the late medieval world. This pursuit is given even more substance in the book by Lady Wedgwood and her producer, Richard Foster.

On the screen, pertinent locations, dramatized sequences and other televisual techniques helped to recreate the lost, provincial environment in which the mystery plays were a profound experience for the majority, and groups like the Brethren of Common Life with which Bosch sympathized, were already setting themselves against an established church they believed to be corrupt.

Contemporary costumes in the painting suggested a contemporary interpretation and very soon the four contrasted types around Christ could be understood as representatives not only of different social classes but the four humours - choleric, melancholic, sanguine and phlegmatic; the four elements - earth, air, fire and water; and their related signs of the zodiac. Painted just before Luther's reformation.

briefing radio 4

For schools

GENERAL STUDIES
(Monday, 12.40, Friday, 13.00)
In the unit "Art and Upstream" 12-year olds are asked to judge the importance of the creative side of crisis.

SCIENCE SCOPE
(Monday, 14.20 VHF)
Evolved from "Introducing Science" series encourages nine to twelve olds to carry out simple experiments. Each programme has a teacher introduction and pauses for thought. This week, Fred Harris introduces "far can you grow?"

DEUTSCH FÜR DIE ORIGINALE
(Monday-Friday, 14.40 VHF)
Advanced level: programmes featuring recordings in Austria and Germany, Hansi and Alfred Andersch, politicians and industry as well as a survey of topical German news.

WATCH
(Tuesday, 11.00, Thursday, 11.00 BBC2)

The unit on trees contains stories, craftwork and songs and encourage six to eight year olds to study the differences between nature in a more scientific way. They study the differences between THE ENGLISH PROGRAMME. (Wednesday, 10.33 TV)

Claire Bloom's "The Bell" about this one woman drama about American poet Emily Dickinson. Intended for 14 to 17 year olds, two programmes will also be on mainstream TV.

SCENE
(Thursday, 11.40, Friday, 12.10)
"Boxing on the Ropes" is a doc for 14 to 16 year olds about the boxing. Specially topical in the light of Steve Watt's death following a March.

TALKWAVES
(Friday, 14.25 VHF)

Aimed particularly at those aged twelve year olds who have heard difficult but share the same language as other children in this age group. "Noises in the Dark" asks children to listen to the problems set by an intruder in a barn and then to them.

Continuing education

CHINA - BEHIND THE GREAT WALL
(Saturday, 16.00 R4)
Preceding the Queen's visit to China in October, two documentaries look at aspects of Chinese society - life in the countryside and how factories are coping with international trading.

PORAOUI
(Saturday, 17.00 VHF)

A repeat of the 20 programme on stage Spanish course - book and cassette available.

GET BY IN FRENCH
(Saturday, 17.30 VHF)

A short series of basic survival French gives holiday makers a chance to use in shops, restaurants, hotels and public transport.

MUSEUM CHOICE
(Sunday, 20.30 R4)
Half a dozen well-known programmes the museum displays they have seen. Among contributors are Ken and Mike Harding and the Secret

Irish Irish

Photographs by Laurie Sparham

Each term Mr Jim Quann, headteacher of Steelstown Primary school in Derry, makes the trip to Dublin to purchase textbooks in Irish from bookstores and the Education Department. Sixty-six of his 1,000 pupils are being taught solely in Irish in response to a parent pressure group, 'Friends of The Gael School'. The Friends also run evening classes for those parents who are not Irish speakers as well as transport door to door for the younger pupils. They campaigned five years for an Irish education. In Mr Quann, an Irish speaker himself, they found a sympathetic ear: the programme has been in operation four years.

Mr Jearóid O'hara, chair of the parent's committee, now faces the task of campaigning for secondary provision for Irish speakers if this programme is not to be in vain.



Mr Jim Quann, headteacher

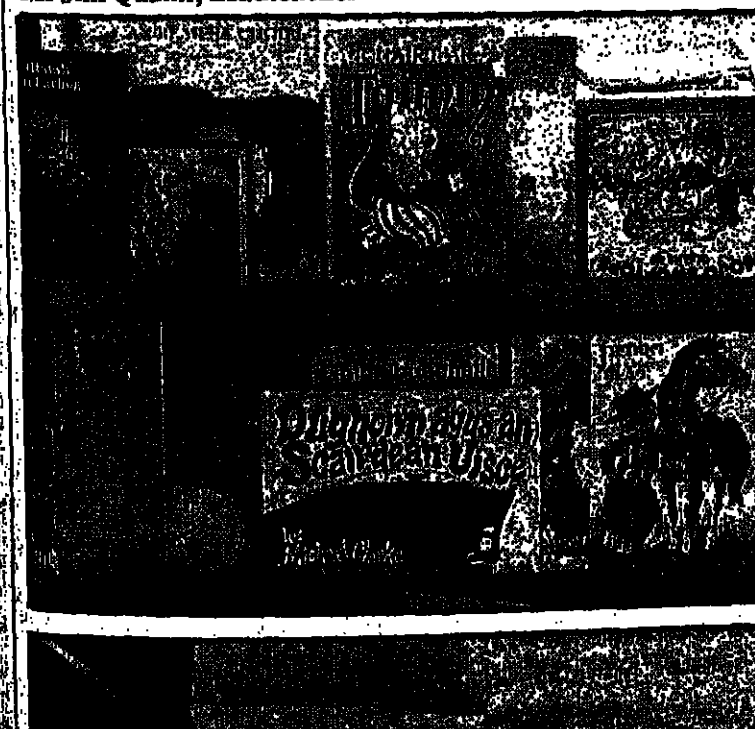
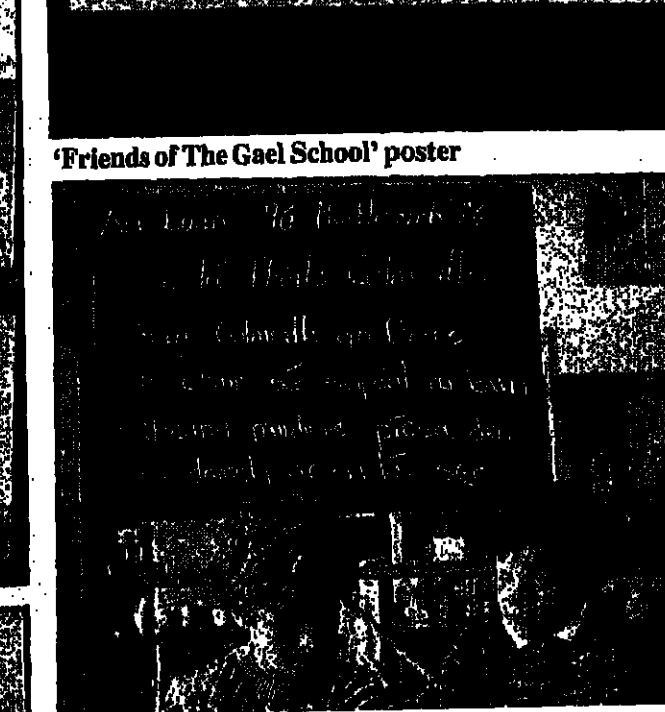
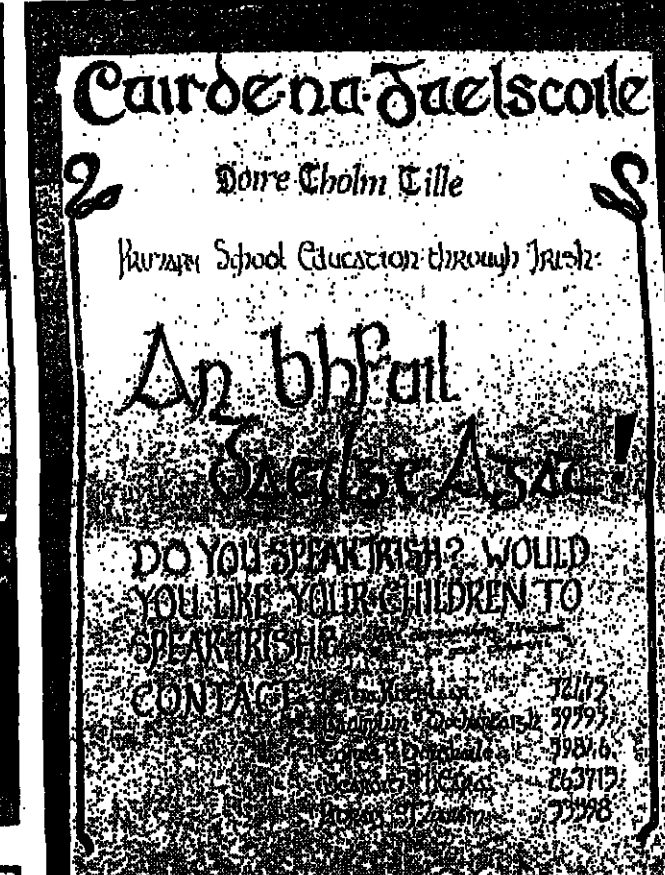


PHOTO REPORT



An Irish class for six year olds



'Friends of The Gael School' poster



An Irish concert by older pupils



Wiltshire

Primary Education
HEADTEACHER POST

Figheldean St. Michael's C.E. (Controlled) Primary School
Figheldean, Salisbury, SP4 5JT.

Group 2

A Head Teacher is required for this three teacher school from April 1987, following the promotion of Mrs. B. Carter to the Headship of another school in Wiltshire and the completion of a review by the Education Committee of primary school provision in the Upper Avon Valley.

Figheldean is an attractive village in the Avon Valley some 12 miles North of Salisbury.

Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) from and returnable to the Chief Education Officer, Education Department, (Ref. ST/77/PMB), Trowbridge by 15th October, 1986.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER POST

Drove Junior School, Drove Road, Swindon, SN1 3AB

Head Teacher, Mr. K. Hinder - N.O.R. 172

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - GROUP 4

Required for January 1987, a suitably experienced teacher, who besides demonstrating ability in the classroom has had practical experience of leading curriculum development.

Further details and application forms (S.A.E. please) available from and returnable to the Headteacher at the school. Closing date 15th October, 1986.

SCALE 1 POSTS

St. Catherine's R.C. V/J School, Davenwood, Stratton, Swindon, SN2 6LL. Head Teacher: Mr. B. Thompson.

Estimated N.O.R. 15. January 1987 - 195

Required for January 1987, teachers for 2nd Year Junior Class. Catholic candidate preferred. Temporary appointment to 31st August, 1987.

Letter of application, c.v., and names and addresses of two referees to the Head Teacher at the school by 10th October.

Eldene Junior School, Collingwood, Eldene, Swindon SN3 1TQ. Tel. Swindon 226026. Scale 1 - N.O.R. 256

Primary teacher required for permanent post commencing 3rd November, 1986. Good primary practice essential. Forms and information available from the school. To be returned by 17th October, 1986.

Westbury Leigh C.E. Primary School, School Lane, Westbury, BA13 3EN. - Group 3 - N.O.R. 138

Temporary Teacher required from January, 1987, to teach Reception Infant. The post will be initially for two terms. Knowledge of good infant practice is essential.

Written letter of application, stating age, particulars of education training and experience and also the names and addresses of two referees to be sent to the Acting Head Teacher by 13th October, 1986. Letter of application should include special skills and interests.

Potterne C.E. Controlled Primary School, Church Corner, Potterne, Devizes SN8 5DX. - Group 2 - N.O.R. 68

Required for January 1987 an enthusiastic infant teacher to teach class of reception to middle infants for this three teacher village school. Opportunities will be provided for a teacher who is interested in developing an area of the curriculum and it is expected that the person appointed will wish to participate fully in the school.

Written letter of application, stating age, giving particulars of education, training and experience and also the names and addresses of two referees to be sent to the Headmaster by the 13th October, (S.A.E. please)

REMEDIAL POST

Peripatetic Remedial Teacher

Required from January 1987, a Scale 1 full time temporary teacher, initially for one year, to develop the continuity of work with selected groups of children with learning difficulties in Pembroke Park and Woodlands First Schools, and Avon Middle School, Salisbury.

Written letter of application to be sent to Mrs. J.A. Garnett, Area Support Team Leader, Sarum St. Paul's C.E. School, Westminister Road, Salisbury, SP2 7DG, stating age, giving particulars of education, training and experience and also the names and addresses of two referees by 13th October.

Application forms and further details from the Chief Education Officer, Education Department, (Ref. ST/77/PMB), Trowbridge by 15th October, 1986.

Hampshire

FAREHAM PARK COUNTY

HEADTEACHER - GROUP 4

Required for January 1987, a suitably experienced teacher, who besides demonstrating ability in the classroom has had practical experience of leading curriculum development.

Further details and application forms (S.A.E. please) available from and returnable to the Headteacher at the school. Closing date 15th October, 1986.

Hampshire

GATEHOUSE PARK FIRST

HEADTEACHER - GROUP 3

Required for January 1987, a suitably experienced teacher, who besides demonstrating ability in the classroom has had practical experience of leading curriculum development.

Further details and application forms (S.A.E. please) available from and returnable to the Headteacher at the school. Closing date 15th October, 1986.

Hampshire

COLLEGE PARK FIRST

HEADTEACHER - GROUP 3

Required for January 1987, a suitably experienced teacher, who besides demonstrating ability in the classroom has had practical experience of leading curriculum development.

Further details and application forms (S.A.E. please) available from and returnable to the Headteacher at the school. Closing date 15th October, 1986.

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Hampshire

COLLEGE PARK FIRST

PRIMARY HEADSHIPS

continued

BROMLEY

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PICKHURST INFANT SCHOOL

Head Teacher, Mr. B. Carter

HAMPSHIRE

continued

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Open College – an idea whose time has come



ALSEY
D. STOCKLAKE
DB. TEL: 0296 89964

New in-service training provisions for England and Wales – but where do they leave media teachers?

Out in the cold

DAVID BUCKINGHAM

This year's National Media Education Conference, organized by the Society for Education in Film and Television, and held in Birmingham in June, debated two issues which are central to the future development of media education in Britain – first, the provision of in-service training, and second, the potential content of a proposed "Media Education 3-18" curriculum document. If the latter might offer a means of gaining the status and recognition which many teachers have sought over the past twenty years, there is a distinct danger that the new INSET arrangements might severely undermine this.

Like many other aspects of current government policy, the new INSET arrangements might aptly be described as "populist". From April 1987, funding for INSET will be administered through local education authorities, rather than in the fairly haphazard combination of national and local funding which obtains at present. Authorities will be required to submit a plan for INSET provision which meets a range of local and national priorities; and while the latter, which were announced in August, are predictably oriented to "the world of work", the former must be seen to take account of the diverse needs of teachers, schools and I.E.A.s themselves.

While the official rationale for these developments – the attempt to improve the efficiency of provision by taking more account of the grassroots needs of teachers – should certainly command widespread support, their ultimate effect may well be to increase central government control, and to

discourage innovation. This is particularly the case with areas like media education, which – hardly surprisingly – do not feature in the new expanded list of national INSET priorities.

If media education is to get a slice of the cake, it will need to be identified by teachers themselves as a local priority. Yet in most local authorities, this too appears unlikely. The most recent announcements indicate that local priority areas will only attract a 50 per cent government grant – much less than was originally hoped. Furthermore, most teachers will inevitably tend to define their needs in terms of what they are already doing. Thus media education will only be registered as a priority in areas where it is already well developed. As a result, the uneven pattern of current provision is likely to be accentuated. Teachers who are interested in the area, yet work in local authorities where there is little media education at present, will be left out in the cold.

The needs of teachers in media education are in several respects different from those in other curriculum areas. Very few are likely to have studied the media as part of their first degree. As such, their needs are as much concerned with subject content as with pedagogy. They are quite different from those, for example, with those of a history teacher who is required to teach a period of history with which she is unfamiliar; in this case, we can assume that the teacher already understands the key concepts and approaches which will enable her to make sense of that period. In the case of media education, even this cannot be taken for granted.

Therefore, while I welcome the argument, made in the DES Report *Popular Television and Schoolchildren* (1983), that media education should be a concern of teachers in all curriculum areas, I would question the view that it is something which all teachers can do simply on the basis of their own experience of the media.

It is not necessarily the case, as the report suggests, that teachers' experience of television is something which is shared with their students. On the contrary, it is likely to be quite different. As a result, it would be misguided to assume that teachers are necessarily able to understand their students' experience. Indeed, in many cases, teachers' interest in media education may be informed by some highly inaccurate prejudices about children and television. For example, the belief that watching television is an inherently inferior activity to reading, or that it is a primary source of undesirable attitudes. Such assumptions typically underestimate children's critical understanding of television, and accord television a far greater power than it in fact possesses.

In other words, there is a body of knowledge which should inform media education – knowledge derived not merely from the academic study of film and television, but also from studies of children's understanding of the media. What does not yet exist – and what INSET itself should surely foster, through classroom-based research – is sufficient knowledge of the learning

processes involved in media education. Without such knowledge there is little basis on which to begin designing a 3-18 curriculum.

If this body of knowledge is to be made available to teachers, and if teachers themselves are to help to develop it, this can only be achieved by thorough and informed in-service training. Although there are increasing numbers of short courses on media education, these are inevitably bound to concentrate on meeting immediate, short-term needs.

Introducing teaching materials, for example, is a common strategy on such courses, which is useful both for covering subject content and also providing instant ideas for the classroom. Yet the limitations of this approach are clear: it does not necessarily equip teachers to go beyond the materials, and to generate their own approaches autonomously. While regional teachers' groups can clearly provide much-needed support in this respect, they are no substitute for longer in-service courses.

What is needed, therefore, is a range of in-service options, with links between shorter, introductory courses and longer, in-depth courses. The major problem at present is the lack of continuity between the two. On the one hand, there are a number of regular and successful short courses, both on a national level (such as the British Film Institute Easter School), and on a local level (such as those run by the ILEA English Centre, and the DES regional courses – although the latter will, of course, under the new arrangements). There are also two certificated Masters degree courses, at

London University Institute of Education, and now at Manchester University. While the new INSET arrangements are likely to rule out one- or two-day secondments, on which these courses have partly depended in the past, they may well survive on a self-funding basis – not least because they are certificated courses, and certification will probably continue to count for more than short courses in terms of promotion.

Perhaps the most encouraging initiative in recent years has been the development of certificate and diploma courses in media education, which have sought to fill the gap between these two types of provision – such as those at the Leicester Centre of Educational Technology, at North Cheshire College and at the Polytechnic of Wales. Yet it is these courses which may be most at risk under the new arrangements, if the I.E.A.s concerned fail to identify media education as a priority, and thus do not have funds to support day release or part-time study in the area.

If these courses are no longer able to survive, there will be an increasing divide between the few who have been lucky (or rich) enough to receive in-depth training, and the many who will count themselves fortunate to catch the crumbs from their table. It is vital that media teachers seize the opportunity now to make their needs known to their local authorities, and exert pressure for adequate and appropriate INSET provision.

David Buckingham teaches in the Department of English and Media Studies at London University of Education.

Two-way street

ALAN HORROX

With educational video suppliers proliferating, broadcasters are being forced to adapt

There has always been a gulf between Schools Television and the rest of the output. For most people "television" means a passive experience, watching at home, individually or with one or two others, without much discussion of any single item, using TV predominantly as entertainment, a continuous flow of output with no real separation between programmes. In contrast, Schools Television assumes (ideally) an active experience, where viewers watch as a group, discussing what they see and hear, using a single (usually recorded) programme as part of a body of work. In short, Schools Television expects the programme not only to offer serious substance but more importantly to be subordinate to the educational process.

At the same time, links between Schools Television and other areas of TV output have grown in recent years. The arrival of the video recorder has allowed teachers, legally or not, to use in the classroom material taken from evening viewing, instead of the pre-selected diet of low-budget Schools output. Inevitably, across the range of evening output, teachers have selected gems which schools TV can hardly match. Take, for example, the David Leland plays *Made in Britain*, which are widely used in English teaching.

Schools TV has responded to this trend by supplying both drama and documentaries from evening output for use in education. Within ITV Schools output, Thames Television's *English Programme* has shown the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Macbeth*, first aired in the evening. And we have screened a number of evening documentary series such as *Our People* (about race and immigration) and *Jonathan Dimbleby's* trilogy about Latin America.

But the process of exchange between evening and school output is by no means a one-way street, where evening material is simply re-cycled to schools. Some years ago the school series *Viewpoint* generated an evening documentary on sex roles, titled

Superman and the Bride. And Jan Bowen's excellent school drama, *The Cueser*, also achieved an evening screening. More recently, Central TV's controversial series *Starting Out* attracted a Channel 4 transmission in tandem with its ITV Schools showing, and at Thames we have increasingly tried to develop these links on a planned basis. A five-part unit on "World Studies" for our secondary series on *World Studies* will later be screened in a different form for an adult audience.

Schools TV, like education generally, is not overwhelmed with resources and it seems sane to develop dual use of material wherever appropriate. But the real danger with this kind of policy is that it may create an expectation that output designed solely for schools is no longer necessary. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nevertheless, when schools themselves are renting or recording high quality, big-budget, evening output, how can Schools TV compete? Interestingly, recent changes at Thames TV have given more support in this situation. For example, when *English Programme* producer Peter Griffiths approached Claire Bloom to ask her to play Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst* (a moving one-hour solo drama about her life and poetry), he was able to offer both an evening and a schools transmission, because Thames TV's Director of Programmes had given his backing. This produced a memorable performance that outshines most mainstream television, let alone Schools TV.

Links between "education" and "mainstream" have other advantages too. Within television, education has always been a backwater, whatever the brave words from educational broadcasters. These new links challenge educational programme makers to rival or exceed standards elsewhere in television. They put producers and directors on their mettle, by exposing their work to a wider public and a range of critical judgement. With important exceptions, educational broadcasting has, in the past, often been unable to withstand this comparison. Now, when suppliers of educational video are beginning to proliferate outside broadcast television, we have to adapt to the new environment.

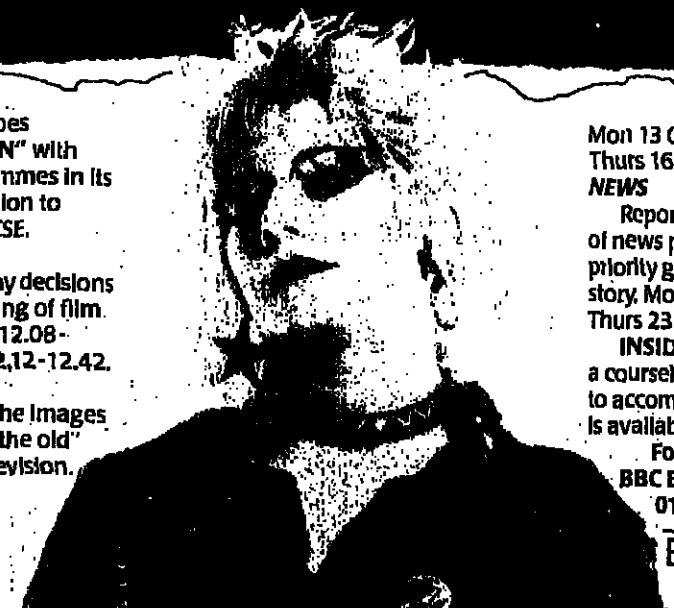
Alan Horrox is Controller of Children's and Education Television at Thames.

THE CHANGING FACE OF TELEVISION

BBC School TV goes "INSIDE TELEVISION" with three further programmes in its continuing contribution to Media Studies for GCSE.

DOCUMENTARY
Examining the way decisions are made in the editing of film material. Mon 6 Oct 12.08-12.38, Thurs 9 Oct 12.12-12.42.

REPRESENTATION
Looking at how the images of "the young" and "the old" are portrayed on television.



Mon 13 Oct 12.08-12.38,
Thurs 16 Oct 12.12-12.42.

NEWS
Reporting the conventions of news presentation, and the priority given to certain kinds of story. Mon 20 Oct 12.08-12.38, Thurs 23 Oct 12.12-12.42.

INSIDE TELEVISION (£1.50), a coursebook for students to accompany the series, is available now.

For further details call BBC Education on: 01-991 8031.

BBC SCHOOL TELEVISION

The English Programme
13-18 years

Wednesday 8th and 15th October at 10.33-10.58 am

POETS INTERNATIONAL

The Belle of Amherst
by William Luce.

Adapted for television by Micheline Wandor

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Personal stereo for private study – new prospects for school radio

Bite-sized chunks

NICK BAKER

The personal stereo, better known as the Walkman, has been roundly dismissed as "chewing gum for the ears". It isolates the listener, say its detractors, immersing him or her in ear-penetrating pop, audible to the outsider as an irritating tiny noise that sounds like a wasp trapped in a paper bag.

However, teacher critics of the personal stereo may find themselves re-evaluating it in the light of a new plan by BBC Education. Until now, radio programmes with the prefix *Help Yourself* have been scattered around the secondary output. Now, with the trend moving more and more towards individual learning at 16-plus, the BBC is planning to package these programmes, geared to the individual or small group learner, and to give them a separate identity. And the personal stereo, hitherto regarded as a fashion accessory, is going to be an important factor in the plans. The reasoning is that it can immerse listeners in learning as easily as it can immerse them in music.

Peter Ward, editor of the newly-organized series, is well aware of the pitfalls involved. He's at pains to point out that there's no suggestion that user schools and colleges tell their students that a personal stereo is going to be an indispensable item for daily use. Apart from anything else, they're easily lost or stolen. At the same time it's clear that the personal stereo's popularity among young people is something that the BBC sees as worth exploiting.

"There is an imperative for schools to re-equip," says Peter Ward, who believes that at the moment, the place you're most likely to find the appropriate sort of cassette recorder is the modern language department. On the whole, the sort of hardware that many schools have is large and ungainly. What's needed are more portable machines which can offer access by one (or preferably two) sets of head-

phones. Ward is understandably cagey about suggesting that schools buy Walkman-type players. However, it's worth pointing out that the price of these machines is dropping. You can buy a perfectly serviceable model for about £20.

As far as the new-style programmes are concerned, the emphasis is very much on interactivity, and here, it seems, radio, or rather audio, is stealing a march on video. Teachers generally don't need reminding that in many pupils' minds, television watching is at best a passive activity and at worst an opportunity to switch off altogether. The *Help Yourself* programmes are designed to integrate problem-solving exercises in the case of science learning, and discussion in areas like oral English. In fact, the parallels with interactive video – still in its infancy as a learning method and likely to be prohibitively expensive for the fore-

seeable future – are striking. The first thing the student needs to learn is how to use the tapes in conjunction with the accompanying work book. In some of the early programmes, there were four initials to learn. "P" meant preparation, "T" meant play the tape, "R" meant revise, and "E" meant try an exercise or activity. Tests showed that this was too complex, and future programmes will simply have the "T" and "E" symbols.

Research has shown that it's important for the programmes' users to get straight down to listening, with a minimum of preparatory reading from the work book. Thus in a forthcoming Biology package about hormones, the listener first hears a disquieting talking about her medical condition, then is instructed to stop the tape and read a section about hormones' basic function. Both the reading and the solving

of the problem – about how hormones function in cells – is part of the "exercise" section. When the student starts the tape again, he or she gets an immediate correct solution.

All the programmes are divided up into units, and students are expected to work as little – or as much – as they need. Or, if the teacher prefers, a section can be used for classwork. In either event, the bite-sized chunk is the order of the day.

As far as the more academic programmes are concerned, it's assumed that the students already have a basic knowledge of the subject area, and need either a "freshener" or some extra information in a specific area. Where they actually do the exercises is entirely up to them – it may be in the back of the classroom, in the library, or as homework. And while it's assumed that the teacher will familiarize them with the contents of the tapes and the

workbooks, there is no obligation for the students to return with an exercise for "marking". In fact, the skill for the teacher will be in matching the right students with the right learning material.

Peter Ward stresses that the series isn't an attempt to enter the "revision notes" market, and prefers to see it as "learning enhancement" rather than cramming via headphones. Indeed, many of the programmes in the series aren't necessarily tied to one subject area. This term, there's a study skills programme; next term one on the legal ins and outs of leaving home.

Initially, teachers will be able to record the programmes from night-time broadcasting, but as the series grows, they'll all eventually be available from BBC Education's Radio Shop Catalogue. There are also plans to carry details of the programmes electronically – on The Times Network for Schools and Overture, the Department of Trade and Industry-backed database planned to link science, industry and education (formerly known as Norcis).

One interesting development is the possibility that *Help Yourself* will also be available, via BBC Enterprises, on the commercial market – so that students can buy their learning tapes in the same chain stores as they buy their pop music and their personal stereos.

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Cultural theory

ROBIN BUSS

Media, Culture and Society: A Critical Reader. Edited by R. Collins, J. Curran, N. Garnham, P. Scammell, P. Schlesinger, C. Sparks
Sage Publications £25.00 0309 9748 5.
£6.95 9749 3.

This selection of articles from the journal *Media, Culture and Society* is in three parts. The first two are devoted to cultural theory and studies of intellectuals as a class, with particular reference to the work of Pierre Bourdieu which emphasizes the economic basis of aesthetic values. This denial of the uniqueness of culture underlies the central thesis of the journal and its contributors: art and culture are not produced or consumed independently of social and economic structures, despite a pretence of autonomy, as Bourdieu demonstrates in his studies of aesthetic preferences and the publishing industry in France.

The third section, taking specific examples from broadcasting in Britain, is the most approachable. David Cardiff, in a well-researched history of serious and popular styles in pre-war radio talks, shows that there is nothing inevitable in the development of forms that audiences generally take for granted. James Curran examines the relationship between advertising and the media, and a case study of representations of "terrorism" (by Philip Elliott, Graham Murdoch and Philip Schlesinger) discovers where and how both official and opposing viewpoints can be heard within the structures of British television.

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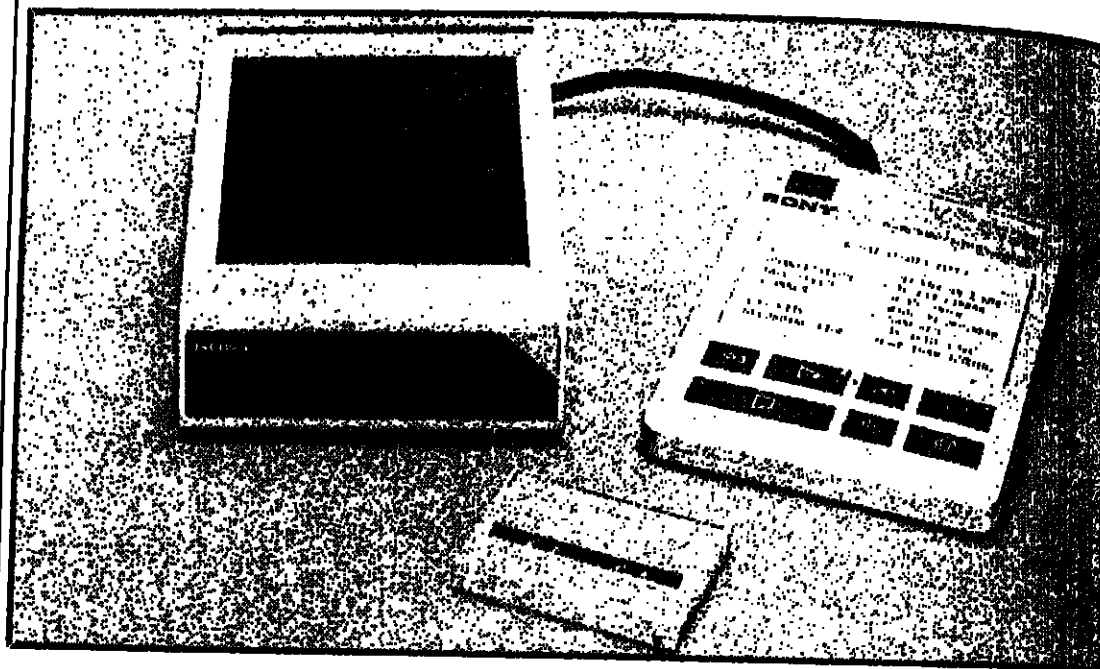
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Easier for editing and off-air recording, DAT — or digital
audio tape — is the audio equivalent of video

Cut out
the splice joins

BARRY FOX

This week in Tokyo two shows open at the Hiromi exhibition centre — the Audio Fair and the Japan Electronics Show. When both events coincide in Tokyo, the Japanese electronics industry pulls out all the stops. Rock groups and singers perform in hot, sweaty studios built on the exhibition site so that the visiting crowds can try recording with the latest tape decks. And this year the exhibitors have laid plans to launch a completely new tape format — DAT, or digital audio tape.

Once the compact disc digital record was launched, four years ago in Japan, it was a foregone conclusion that the electronics industry would upgrade tape recording to match CD in quality and features. The conventional audio cassette is now ripe for improvement as the old vinyl LP was then. Unbroken playing time from a cassette is limited, usually to 45 minutes. The cassette must then be taken out of the recorder, flipped over and run in the opposite direction. Audio quality can be surprisingly good, but only from the best recorders, in the best condition, and used with a brand of the best tape which has magnetic characteristics that match the factory settings of the recorder.

It is, when you stop to think about it, absurd that it is far easier to tape a television programme off-air than it is to tape a radio broadcast. All video recorders are designed with off-air taping in mind: a tuner picks up the signal, a timer switches the machine on and faces the tape with split-second accuracy. The machine then runs until the timer switches it off again or changes channels, and one video cassette can record up to eight hours of unbroken TV pictures and sound.

To tape radio, you will usually need a separate timer, radio receiver, tape recorder and possibly amplifier as well. Even then the unbroken recording time will usually be limited to less than an hour. DAT, with two or three hours of CD-quality continuous recording from a single cassette, opens the door to a new generation of hardware which is the radio equivalent of a video recorder. It could be a boon to schools broadcasting.

For at least 10 years the Japanese electronics industry has been working on a digital audio cassette. Around five years ago the industry decided to create a completely new kind of cassette which was smaller, than existing cassettes and ran for longer. They could not, however, agree on the best technical approach. There were two possibilities: stationary head recording (S) and rotary head recording (R). The industry finally agreed to set two standards, one for S-DAT and one for R-DAT. Both use cassettes around the size of a credit card, containing high-energy tape coated with pure metal instead of the usual magnetic oxide. The S-DAT cassette is 10cm long, 5cm wide and 1.5cm thick. The R-DAT cassette is 10cm long, 5cm wide and 1.5cm thick.

and R-DAT are incompatible, the cassettes are slightly different in shape and size. In an S-DAT machine the tape runs past a stationary recording head, superficially similar to the recording head in a conventional cassette deck. But like the head in a professional computer recorder, the S-DAT head is sub-divided into a large number of separate sections. So it lays down a tightly-packed series of parallel tracks across the tape width.

Although this sounds the obvious approach for domestic or semi-professional DAT recording, the multi-section head is very difficult to make. And if the tape weaves even slightly the head reads the wrong tracks. The R-DAT approach, although more complicated, looks like becoming the winner. The R-DAT recorder works like a miniature video recorder. The tape is run round a rapidly-rotating drum. The drum carries a head which records tracks obliquely across the tape width. The mechanism is smaller than for a video recorder and the tape wraps only partly round the drum. There is no compatibility between audio and video systems.

The DAT drum rotates very rapidly (2,000rpm) and the tape moves only very slowly (well under one inch a second). This means that a short length of tape can store a long recording. It also means that the tape can wind very fast from beginning to end. The full length of tape for a two or three-hour recording can re-wind in less than half a minute. So the machine can wind between musical tracks or sections of speech with a gap of only seconds.

Because the recording is in digital code, like that on a CD, any section of the tape can be digitally marked. A DAT player can thus behave just like a CD player, skipping some parts of the disc, playing other parts in pre-programmed order and if necessary going over the same section again and again.

Broadcasters see this as a wonderful new opportunity for editing without cutting the tape. Suppose you have recorded 15 minutes of a politician wriggling his way out of a tricky situation. To edit this down into a couple of minutes of coherent, crisp comment will usually take dozens of cut and splice joins. With DAT, the salient sentences can be picked out on a first run-through and digitally flagged. The tape is then played back with the machine skipping backwards and forwards to the salient sentences, so that only the salient sentences are heard. Sony has been showing broadcast-type DAT recorders which will have a solid state memory store to bridge the short gaps between sentences. There is room in the DAT data stream for text and graphics like

compact disc. So a DAT tape will be able to display educational diagrams on screen, with simple diagrams or sketches, while a tutor speaks or a musician plays. The digits on a DAT recording can be used to keep a log with a video or film system. It has implications for education as well as for the home.

If DAT had been launched last year, it is likely that CD would never have taken off as successfully as it has. But CD now has a head start. Japan more people are buying compact disc players than conventional gramophones. By the time DAT is available, it will make the ideal companion for CD. There has even been talk of it making CD obsolete, but facts speak for themselves.

The launch of DAT and ill-fated compact disc stories about obsolescence have however confused the public. The Japanese electronics industry planned to introduce DAT at the Tokyo Audio Fair last October. At the last minute, and under pressure from the Japanese retailers, they cancelled the formal unveiling. The retailers had, quite reasonably, argued that the publicity for DAT would muddy the waters with the novelty of compact disc and 8mm video.

This year there is again pressure on the Japanese manufacturers to put DAT on hold, at least until the Spring. The record industry worries about home taping on DAT. Perhaps no-one will know until the Tokyo shows open this week whether DAT will get an airing or stay in the cupboard. So what is the sales scale if it is launched?

Matsushita, maker of Technics and Panasonic equipment and the largest consumer electronics manufacturer in the world, talked earlier this year of a Tokyo unveiling and first unit in Japanese shops by November. European launch would follow in 1987, probably late in the year. Sony, which happens, take-off will be slow. Sony has warned that the cost of recorders and tapes will be high, up to £1,000 for a domestic DAT machine with tapes more expensive than video cassettes. Professional machines for broadcasters and recording studios will cost between £5,000 and £10,000. Eventually DAT will become a mass market product, but not for several years. Because of the complex engineering design, it will probably average cost 50 per cent more than a compact disc player.

There is a basic difference between conventional and DAT cassette technology, which has been largely overlooked. The conventional cassette started life as a low-cost, low-quality medium. It then moved up to a high-cost, high-quality recording tape which, over the next decade, will reduce in size and complexity.

Advertising — the seduction of images
and the packaging of commodities

Dream merchants

KATHY MYERS

TV-AM bounces into action every Saturday and Sunday morning with the *Wide Awake Club*, liberally sprinkled with adverts for Pup-UP Pirates, Frosties, Super Noodles, My Little Pony and the rest. Big advertisers like Hasbro, Lego, Action GT, Bluebird Mattel and Fisher Price are dependent on these early morning slots to catch the kids' attention. For although top rating soaps like *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* provide as many young viewers, the "environment" and low cost associated with children's television means that many media buyers prefer TV-AM. And it's a lucrative market. The advertising of toys and games contributed £3,124,000 to TV-AM's profits last year.

Not surprisingly advertising has become over the last few months a very controversial area of programming. The Independent Broadcasting Authority have expressed concern over this glut of consumerism on the hearts and minds of the under-fives, a perceived vulnerability which the IBA's Code of Advertising Standards and Practice is keen to protect. Its introduction states: "No method of advertising may be employed which takes advantage of the natural credulity and sense of loyalty of children."

The vulnerability and impressionability of children is something upon which candidates from either end of the political spectrum are likely to agree. It is a consensus which in rare moments of moral panic, as for example the recent Video Nasties debate, climaxes in public outrage against the media's capacity to exploit the emotions of children. And in less steamy moments, when Mary Whitehouse and the reactionary National Viewers and Listeners' Association are warning against the excesses of drink, sex and violence on TV, left-wing authors such as Bob Fergusson (in *TV and Schooling*) condemn a broadcasting system which is "Anglo-centric, often racist, sexist, royalist, pro-capitalist, (and) ostensibly Christian".

What these contradictory perspectives share is a belief in the persuasive power of TV on the one hand, and on the other, that children today are innocent and naive. It is not a view shared by the more radical wing of

programming, nor by advertisers. Ron Smedley, the producer of the controversial comprehensive series, *Grange Hill*, argues that much of the outrage precipitated among parents in the programme's early days, was not so much a battle over morality, as a battle over what is and is not suitable for a child. Smedley feels that much of children's programming is subject to the same assumptions. Pears baby innocence till the rite of passage at 16. *Grange Hill*'s realist image was the brainchild of Phil Redmond, and to this day it relies on continual feedback from schools and teachers to help it keep abreast of issues and ideas, a process very similar to that conducted by advertising agencies in their search for the perfect campaign.

BMP's (Boase Massimi Pollitt) media director for Fisher Price toys, Steve Harrison, is not surprised at the comparison. Much of his own market research with kids suggests that they prefer the realist drama of *EastEnders*, *Coronation Street*, *Grange Hill* and *Minder* to the "kids' stuff" dished out for them in the 4.0 - 6.0 pm slot.

"We have one thing in common with *Grange Hill*," he comments. "Neither of us can afford to talk down to, or patronize kids. The second you do that you've lost them." He agrees that most programming is flawed by working with out-dated Victorian images of children: "Logically, morally and commercially kids are adult at 10", but he adds that maturity does not extend to sex. "Despite being both articulate and lucid by the age of 12, they're still immature. Sex has still to rear its ugly head and interest in the world around them is restricted to things, especially cars, rather than people."

The result of this extensive market and psychological research into the shifting and mutable identities of childhood means that BMP has been able to target the Construx Fisher Price account, for which they're responsible, much more effectively. Sally Cutting, the account planner, points out that it is crucial to get the language and image of the campaign tailor-made for the age group intended. She cites the case of Mr Men yoghurts and the Construx

"Activity Centre", both carefully researched to appeal to pre-school children, with the added stipulation that they'll engage a watching parent. Fisher Price's motto is "Children Taught Us All We Know", a boast borne out by their American school, a product market research and development centre, held in high esteem by ambitious parents who want their children weaned on the best toys.

This direct involvement of children in the marketing mix could be interpreted cynically — further evidence of the corruption of children's minds in the pursuit of private profit. And many people rightly feel that children are exploited enough in a world rampant with rape, child abuse and (still) child labour. The natural urge is physically and emotionally to protect children in a kind of domestic and media cotton-tail cotton wool. But as women have historically found to their cost, "protection" is also the handmaiden of exploitation. Both arrogantly assume power over the weak. To protect is not the same as to educate, nor does it empower youngsters to deal with the snake pit of adult life.

Without this perception many philanthropic aims misfire. On Tuesday September 2 the television news ran a report on the Yellow Hammer "Heroin Screws You Up" campaign. A sceptical anti-heroin youth worker cast aspersions on the campaign's bleak James Dean nihilism, "black soulful images which kids find glamorous. In a strange way the young addict is attracted to that. It's a turn-on."

One wonders what the effect might have been, if its consumer appeal had been more properly researched along the lines practised by BMP. If media education is going to contribute to the next generation's understanding of the power of the media, the seduction of images and the packaging of commodities, then it has to learn as well as condemn the methods of advertising. It is perhaps the ultimate irony that advertising, the dream merchant, the vendor of aspiration and lifestyle consciousness, should, in order to play its trade, have its feet planted firmly in the reality of everyday life.

Kathy Myers is the author of *Understands: The Sense and Seduction of Advertising* (Comedia).

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Young
directors

Let's Make a Film Festival is the title of a special day of children's work at the National Film Theatre on Saturday, October 4. NFT1 and NFT2 will be given over to showing about sixty films and videos made by young people throughout the United Kingdom. A range of work from five to 25-year-olds demonstrates vividly the variety of use to which film and video are being put in schools and colleges. Special features include animated films by young members of Jessica Langford's Film Workshop Trust in Edinburgh and a splendid piece of video work, *Myraddin*, by Bishop David Brown School in Woking (average age 14). For the first time this year the festival, which is orga-



nized by the Cooperative Retail Services, includes a conference on the development of use of film and video in education, to which teachers and film makers are all invited. The conference begins at 11.00 and is free; two film shows in NFT1 from 1.15 and three video shows from 1.30 will each cost £1.50 (children), £2.75 (adults).

Education
awards

This year's Paddy Whannel Award has been shared by the Scottish Archive Film for Education project and the Media Centre at Bracknell. The award is given by the British Film Institute for educational initiatives in film and television.

The Scottish Archive Film for Education project has grouped together film extracts on chosen themes and made them available for hire or purchase on video. The tapes are aimed at specific groups, for example, the compilation *Industrial Society* complements a course in Scottish secondary schools. Each pack contains

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In 1986 two teachers were seconded to work with Central Television as part of the Nottinghamshire Media Project. What were the benefits for the broadcasters and the teachers?

Television this year celebrates its half century, and after 50 years it still holds a mystery and fascination. Yet people still do not understand how it works, or appreciate how complicated it is to put together even the simplest-looking programme.

When Central Television began discussing a media project with Nottinghamshire Education Authority, the company was pleased to be able to offer practical help, because the results of such a study can have wide-reaching applications in education circles, and indeed for Central.

Media Studies is now becoming an established subject in the school curriculum, yet there is no authoritative publication providing the kind of insight Paul Kiddey and Mike Hamlin can now offer teachers coming to grips with the subject. Many youngsters look towards the media for their careers, and we hope that they will have a clearer understanding of what television can offer them, and what they can offer it.

There have been many benefits for Central, too. It is enlightening and refreshing to have an outsider's view of what we ourselves do. They look at things from a different perspective, prompt us to question why we do things in a certain way, and can help us gauge the importance and significance of what we do.

The first part of the project was like an induction course, during which the teachers spent some time with various departments, collecting basic information. Then, under the guidance of Kim Garcia from Nottinghamshire's Curriculum Development Support Service and Central's Ann Board from the Personnel Department, they were able to decide specific aspects they wished to investigate more fully. Our staff responded positively to the initial contact with Mike and Paul and became wholeheartedly involved in the study.

New staff coming to Central will also benefit, because the teachers' report can be given to them as part of their induction course. And, of course, one long-term benefit for Central, the teachers and the local education authority is that this project has opened many doors, created friendships and contacts and fostered a greater understanding of the way each works in their own career worlds.

ALAN PANKHURST, (Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations, East Midlands Television Centre, Nottingham)



Opening doors

MIKE HAMLIN and PAUL KIDDEY

The Media Project marked an important new departure in the links it established between media educators and the television industry as well as in the range, breadth and quality of the access that was achieved.

During the spring term the majority of our time was spent studying in depth and at first hand the workings of the East Midlands Television Centre, while also visiting departments in Birmingham and London. In the second term we returned to work with colleagues in our schools, to feed in the benefits of our time at Central and to support media education in the classroom.

We were given virtually unlimited access to all the major departments at Central, including News and Current Affairs, Light Entertainment, Drama, Children's Programmes and Schools' and Religious Broadcasts. We were

able to follow through complete production processes, have discussions and interviews with producers, directors, planners, designers, writers, studio and technical crews, and observe at close quarters the minutiae of programme making, presentation and transmission.

Some of the highlights included a five-day attachment to Central News. This involved going out on the road with a news crew, being present on the studio floor with presenters, floor managers, camera and sound operators, as well as observing the bustle of a busy newsroom.

An attachment to the popular children's programme, *Emu's All Live Pink Windmill Show*, allowed us to experience the recording of complex video extracts involving music, dance and special effects, for later playback before a studio audience as one part of a "live" transmission - a rare event in

television today. A situation comedy provided the opportunity to study the scale and complexity of location filming, the time-consuming process of editing and the problems of inserting the filmed extract into a recording of the whole programme before a studio audience.

The three-day recording of an hour-long drama, with a further three days of post-production (video-editing and audio-dubbing) acted as a working model for examining the realities of set design, construction and prop-hire, while at the same time remaining within the financial constraints set by production accounting. It also demonstrated the crucial supportive role of make-up and wardrobe in any production process.

The first term also included a series of extended meetings with the Education and Religious Affairs Department, the Public Affairs Department, the Community Programmes Unit, the London-based Sales Department, as well as with representatives from the Independent Broadcasting Authority and Understanding British Industry.

After Easter we returned to our schools to work alongside colleagues, developing curriculum ideas, strategies and materials for classroom application, building wherever possible on the wealth of information and insight we had accumulated at Central Television. Continued liaison with regular visits to the Television Centre was maintained throughout this period, which provided further support for colleagues.

To all those involved the project was a resounding success. In particular, the time spent at Central had a profound effect on us as media educators. The opportunity for sustained attachments to the "behind the scenes" operations of production and sales, as well as the more visible world of programmes, revealed underlying patterns of co-ordination and constraint of which we and our colleagues in school were previously unaware. For six months it has been possible to be on the inside of this world, and the experience has made it possible for us to talk, think and write across a whole range of broadcast television with the confidence of insiders.

Another important benefit of the project has been the range of contacts established among media professionals and educationists, regionally and nationally. These could form the basis of an informed network, facilitating the development of good practice in

Nottinghamshire schools.

The achievements in the project schools have been substantial in initiating and supporting enthusiasm for media education generally. Important work has begun and teachers have expressed an eagerness to become involved in a variety of practical curriculum developments related to media. This has included both teachers previously unfamiliar with this work as well as more experienced colleagues and has involved a necessary shift of emphasis from the work depending on enthusiastic individuals to its becoming the responsibility of whole schools and departments.

One aim of the project was to develop materials in collaboration with Central Television to further the understanding of the work of a television station. With this in mind, a wealth of materials was gathered for development for classroom use. A fully-illustrated 50-page booklet, *Looking into Central Television*, is being produced. This will attempt to cover, in an accessible way, the key areas of historical background, company shape and structure, production planning and process, audience measurement and sales. It should be a practical and informative resource for teachers and students interested in exploring the work of a modern television centre.

A number of other media-related packages, intended for classroom use, are beginning to emerge. Their purpose would be to encourage an active, exploratory approach to studying the media, adaptable for all ages and abilities.

A fully-documented case study which reflects on the whole project experience is currently in production. This will describe in detail the thinking behind the project, its structure and aims, plus the work carried out at Central Television and in the project schools. It will conclude with an evaluation of the project as a whole and present some suggestions for the development of media education away from the work in the schools.

Further details regarding the project are available from the Curriculum Development Support Service, the Midlands Centre, The Meadows, Nottingham NG2 8A (tel. 0432 84322). Mike Hamlin is Head of Media Education at Toot Hill Comprehensive, The Bards, Nottingham. Paul Kiddey is Deputy Head of Sunningdale Primary School, Great Hogget Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham.

Screen messages

ROBIN BUSS

Children and Television. By Bob Hodge and David Tripp. Polity Press £22.50. 0 7456 0228 2.

Any discussion of the effects of television on children must start with some understanding of how children perceive the messages that they get from the screen. This, as Bob Hodge and David Tripp stress, is not easy to achieve. To what extent do children distinguish between fiction and reality? Even the questions are hard to formulate when a 12-year-old says that her dog, Max, "seems more real to me" than her friend Nicole, "because I see Max everyday and 'cos Nicole doesn't go to this school".

But, while the use of terms may be different, it seems clear from talking to children that they do in fact make distinctions from a very early age, both between everyday reality and what they see on television, and between different levels of television reality. "He was just a film by a camera and they're moving him but you can't see the hands," a six-year-old says of Yogi Bear. "I don't know how they make cartoons." Perhaps, the authors suggest, someone should tell him: media education starts with wanting to know.

An understanding of children's perceptions of television also needs a theoretical framework, as well as the empirical evidence which Hodge and Tripp have collected in their study of a group of Australian children. The theory is provided by semiotics and their uncertainty about their readers' acquaintance with the terminology means that a good deal of space has to be devoted to definitions. We learn to

distinguish synchronic/synoptic systems from diachronic/diopsis systems, and to relate syntagms to paradigmatic structures of modality.

All this may be necessary to the underpinning of the argument, but it highlights the novelty of semiotic theory for the average British or Australian reader and leaves the impression that at least two books have been combined, one an outline of semiotics, the other an account of research findings. At least two, because the penultimate chapter, because it incorporates a polemic on the history of Media Studies, which in Britain is said to be "in a state of struggle".

The theoretical and polemic strands are a necessary (or at any rate a natural) outcome of the authors' approach, but the reader who wants to know more about the impact of television on young children is likely to perceive them as digressions, and to find the "ten theses on children and television" with which the book concludes, a slightly meagre reward for the effort required to reach them.

The one firm conclusion throughout, whether in the close analysis of the cartoon *Fangface* or the more generalised discussion of violence, is the complexity of children's reactions, which are based on the different contexts in which programmes are seen and the developing frameworks with which children elaborate for themselves their own meanings.

Discussions with children show that they do perceive these meanings, and the result is to suggest how teachers absorb information about the world through television, the authority they attribute to the medium and their interpretation of its metaphors in terms of their own experience.

At the BBC, an ILEA teacher is currently working with the 'EastEnders' team. Why second a teacher to a popular - even controversial - soap opera?

Shared experience

RITA CAREY

The secondment to *EastEnders* was set up at a one-day conference on television and literature, organized by the British Film Institute Education Department. Members of the *EastEnders* production team took part and showed a great willingness to co-operate with education. They actually welcomed the secondment of a teacher to observe their production and to develop possible ways of teaching about it. Discussion among teachers had already revealed that *EastEnders* was being used for various purposes in the classroom.

With viewing figures at times reaching 20 million, *EastEnders* is still the most popular programme on television. A variety of factors contribute to this: scheduling, characters, plots, setting, and all are worthy of closer analysis. Examination in these areas can encourage a range of tating and listening, writing and reading, research, role play and practical activities in the classroom.

Laurie Taylor and Bob Mullen, in their book *Uninvited Guests* (Chatto), argued against the widely-held view that TV blocks communication within families. They showed that it is more often an aid for conversation than a barrier. Television can certainly be a shared experience for families, and *EastEnders* appears to be one programme which the whole family watch together. Their individual reasons for doing so may be very different, so *EastEnders* can be a source of discussion and reflection within families and other groups of viewers. Discussions with pupils indicate that the series is often a topic of conversation in their homes and among friends, with differences of opinion on characters or developments being aired freely.

However popular *EastEnders* may be, this does not mean that pupils watch it passively or uncritically. Their very regard for the series makes them very critical of anything which they feel is a drop in standards. They view with scepticism any developments which do not fit in with the general sense of realism they attribute to the programme, and they are keen to suggest ways of correcting faults.

Pupils of all ages usually have a knowledge about television which can be used productively in the classroom. Recent work on *EastEnders*, carried out with seven-year-olds, showed that even at this age they have an understanding of the narrative strategies used in a popular continuous serial. The knowledge already existed, but the pupils themselves were not fully aware of it until they were asked to look at how the stories are presented on *EastEnders*. Once this understanding of narrative is established, teachers can use it to make comparisons with other forms of narrative in film, television and written fiction.

EastEnders contains a rich variety of

social and ethnic types and is very useful in explorations of representation in the serial form, in television in general and in fiction. The serious social issues raised provide another important area for discussion and examination in the classroom. The series can be studied for its representation of issues like teenage pregnancy, unemployment and racism, or the issues themselves can be discussed, using the programme as a stimulus.

One further area of the secondment, concerns the actual production of the series. It was only after the BBC had purchased the old film and television studios at Elstree that the logistics of running a twice-weekly soap opera could be met. Elstree was big enough to house all the different departments involved in the production of a soap

opera, and permanent outdoor and indoor sets of Albert Square.

The pace of production has to be very fast to produce the 50 minutes of studio recording and 10 minutes of insert material used each week. The weekly production turnaround, using three teams of directors, has been designed to give actors as much rehearsal time as possible, while multi-camera shooting enables scenes to be shot in their entirety and cuts down the amount of editing required.

The complex production processes involved in making *EastEnders* obviously affect the shape of the final product. It is important that students are made aware of these, particularly with the new GCSE and CPVE emphasis on process.

Rita Carey has been seconded to *EastEnders* from Parliament Hill School.



Past and present members of the band in *EastEnders*



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A new Media Centre at Leigh College in Wigan was opened officially this week by Miss Sheila Innes, Controller of BBC Education. Funded by Wigan's Education Committee with a grant from the British Film Institute, the centre includes a 64-seat auditorium with film and video projection, which will function as a community cinema, a three-camera television studio and post-production suite with editing machines and audio-dubbing facilities, and a stock of portable video equipment for field use. Teacher advisers based at the centre will visit schools and assist in media teaching and in-service training.

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Free service

ANNE SUFFOLK

BBC and ITV both have teams of education officers, but how can they help you?

Schools broadcasting is nearly 30 years old and currently used in over 90 per cent of UK schools. No one can assume it will last another 30 years unless it continues to meet genuine educational needs. Helping meet these needs are ITV and BBC education officers who, at a local level, often work together.

Amongst us are experienced teachers, i.e.a. advisers, INSET leaders, textbook authors and initial training lecturers. Although individual ITV companies specialise in particular curriculum areas, we all contribute our series to ITV for Schools. So, if the person you contact can't help, we can put you through to someone who can.

Many individual teachers ask education officers for help "locating" resources to support new initiatives or to revitalize their current teaching methods. We can sometimes pinpoint the only programme on a particular topic, or the programme whose ethos and style is compatible with their own approach.

Twice a week I visit schools to view new programmes and talk with staff and pupils about whether existing TV series meet their needs and interests. The schools vary from large inner city comprehensive to tiny isolated rural primaries.

Sometimes we work with a whole school, as in one case where the school did little science. The headteacher and i.e.a. adviser invited us to participate in a school-based course and talk with the staff about how our science series complemented i.e.a. guidelines and which particular programmes could illustrate the school's choice of study areas. Using *Starting Science*, we did some team teaching with a range of small group, practical activities, viewing, discussing and doing. After school we stayed for a meeting of local schools' science postholders to debate the resourcing and philosophy of primary science.

In London, groups of language teachers have gathered specific examples of ways in which pupils' language development can be extended, using a range of television series. Working with the Thames education officer, they keep in contact with shared examples of work. When she is sent pupils' work she disseminates it, and occasionally prints it in the teachers' notes. One school is working with her at monitoring its use of *Middle English* to develop discussion skills, so the knowledge gained benefits the staff of that school, is shared with other schools and then fed back into improving the development of the series.

Some series are closely tied to major national curriculum development projects, show good classroom practice and support areas with a high priority for inservice education. In these cases

we may be asked to participate in national, regional and local courses and conferences by advisers, inspectors or other INSET leaders.

Courses can also arise through discussion. One Midlands primary adviser was concerned about inappropriate use of topic work TV series. Together we looked at improving classroom practice in the use of educational television, talked about the development of concepts and skills through the *Going Places* geography series, and discussed whether *History Around You* and *How We Used To Live* could stimulate children to undertake research and oral history projects.

Courses may be on cross-curricular issues. Some recent examples have included handling controversial issues in the classroom, examining sexism and equal opportunities for women, through using TV or looking at contrasting approaches to multicultural and anti-racist education and the pitfalls we as broadcasters have met with over the years.

In Scotland, HMI's, colleges and i.e.a.'s, together with the BBC, STV and Grampian, are working on a national programme of in-service for broadcasting and the curriculum. A pilot project in Lothian involves headteachers, i.e.a. personnel and broadcasters in developing guidelines and strategies for using TV to benefit classroom practice.

In Northern Ireland the Regional Curriculum Base initiated a major project, supported by a full-time officer, Ulster TV and the BBC, to examine the effective use of broadcast materials in further education.

In the course of a year, a variety of educational organizations will contact us or be contacted by us. A local branch of the Schools Library Association may want to discuss the relationship between books and television, a college may want a workshop for students before teaching practice.

With the current resurgence of interest in media education, education officers are helping teacher groups and individual schools with media education by looking at copyright-free material, putting them in contact with specialist expertise, delivering a variety of talks on an *à la carte* basis, or hosting regional conferences. Two teachers from Nottingham i.e.a. were recently seconded to Central TV (see page 50).

Some things we just can't help with, such as requests to write a letter outlining everything we know about television in next week. However, a small group of ITV education officers is currently writing a booklet on good practice in using television in the classroom, and if serious researchers have specific questions, then that's a different matter.

So, if you are looking for a fresh answer to what to do with 30 or would like to initiate change but things are moving slowly, why not try asking your local education officers?

Anne Suffolk is one of two education officers for Central Television.

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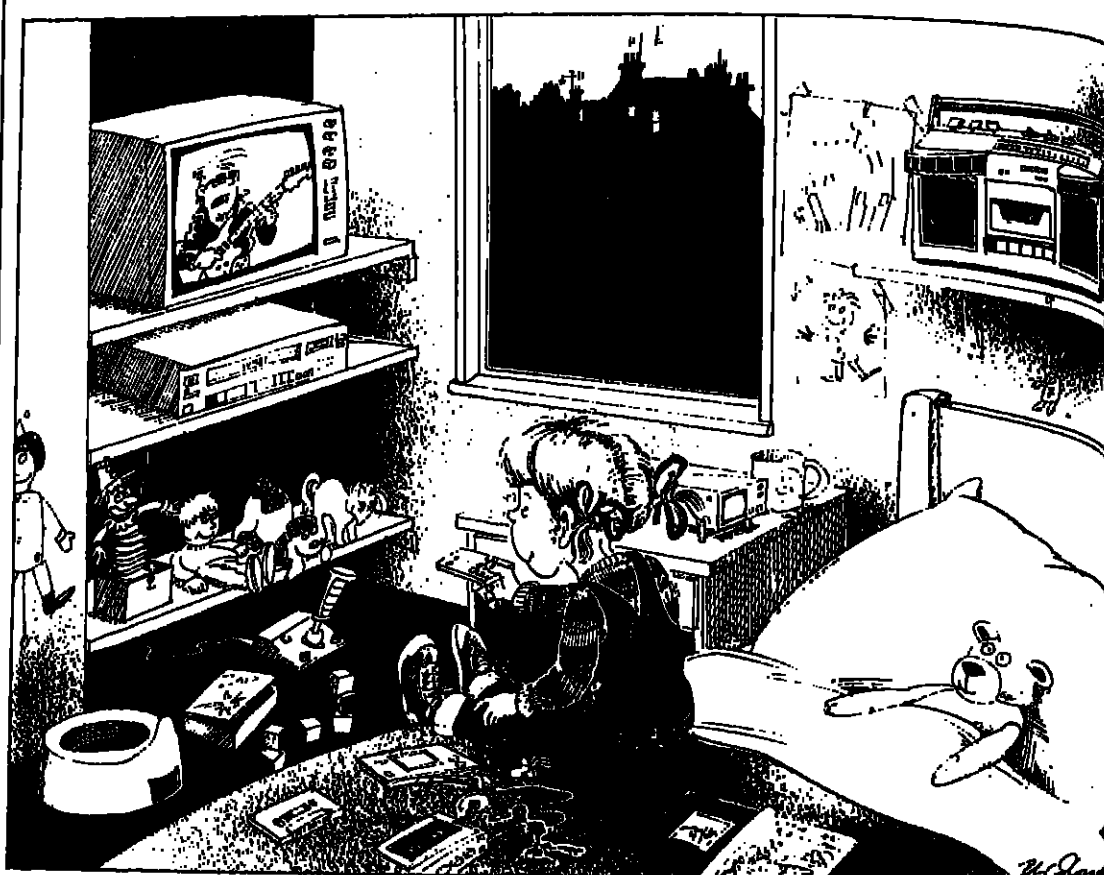
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Media-wise

BARRIE GUNTER and BRADLEY GREENBERG

The introduction of television on a widespread scale in Britain in the late 1950s prompted concern among educationists that viewing would displace reading and harm children's school performance. Although research at the time did not indicate an across-the-board reduction in all kinds of reading with the acquisition of a set, some displacement was evident.

Thirty years on, the question of displacement of some media by others has risen once again. The first half of the 1980s saw an unprecedented growth in availability and use of new electronic media. Increasingly today, homes possess not just one, but two, three or even more television sets. Furthermore, the set has acquired a range of accessories and attachments — video recorders, personal computers, remote controls — which have significantly modified the way it is used.

Typically, children are more comfortable than their parents with such new medium or gadget as it comes along. They do not know how many are more receptive to new ideas because they have fewer old ones to abandon and they often take to new gadgets as "toys", if not for more serious purposes.

Essentially, children are less threatened by new media than are grown-ups. But time is a limited commodity. Greater use of new electronic media or gadgetry must mean that less time is spent doing other things and this possibly includes using more established media, such as books, magazines, newspapers and radio. Displacement of reading, if it occurs, is as worrisome today as 30 years ago.

In a recent survey by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, we explored which media children have available to them and what use they make of them. From this research it has become clear that children have access to and make use of a wide range of media — and that the use of older established ones does not invariably diminish in the face of competition from the new.

Television viewing diaries and questionnaires were completed by a nationwide sample of 468 young people, aged between four and 12 years. In their diaries, the children logged the programmes they watched on TV during the survey week. On the questionnaire, we asked about ownership and use of a range of media. We asked children if they had their own television set, a video recorder, a computer, a radio, a cassette player, a record player, a

musical instrument, a record player, a book of poems, a box of paints, any books or comics, and a telephone with push button numbers. We then asked them how often they had used these items in the last seven days, and included further items about going to the cinema and reading magazines and newspapers.

All children surveyed had a television set in their homes as a condition of being selected. Just over four out of ten (43 per cent) claimed to have "their very own" TV set. Most said they had a computer at school (96 per cent) and over half had one at home (52 per cent). There was widespread ownership of audio-cassettes (93 per cent) and record players (83 per cent) and two-thirds also claimed to have a cassette player or radio with earphones (68 per cent). A similar number said they had their own radio (65 per cent). Over half had a video cassette recorder (VCR) at home (52 per cent) and nearly half had friends with one (49 per cent). Remote control toys, push button telephones and teletext sets were relatively rare among this sample, though not uncommon.

Media ownership was not completely dominated by electronic forms of amusement. Considerable numbers of children owned books (94 per cent) and comics (82 per cent) and a musical instrument (70 per cent). This listing does not exhaust all possible media available to children. Nevertheless, it does indicate a media pervasiveness that is on the whole quite extensive; a majority of the children claimed to have most of the items asked about.

How often do children use different media if they have them? If we take a look first of all at what we call "tele-media", comprising VCRs, tele-text and remote control channel changers, then there is clear evidence that VCR usage is fairly extensive. Nearly half the children from VCR households (49 per cent) said they used it regularly. Slightly more claimed a similar level of usage of tele-text if they had a set (52 per cent), and a substantial majority of children from homes with a remote control claimed to use it often (82 per cent). Frequent use of personal computers was less widespread, but not uncommon either, especially for playing games. One in five children with personal computers at home, however, claimed to use them for non-game purposes.

More than four out of ten said they regularly played records (42 per cent) or listened to music on the radio (44 per cent). Fewer claimed to play pop music videos though, and

nearly 80 per cent of youngsters from VCR households said they never did. Despite the obvious use of quite a range of electronic media in the home, there was no indication that children were being ignored. More than half the children said they read newspapers at least occasionally. About one in four (26 per cent) claimed to read one fairly often. The same proportion (32 per cent) and one-quarter (24 per cent) of

Even more enlightening were findings which revealed how the use of different media — old and new — together, was there any evidence of displacement? Was there any evidence that the media were being ignored? More than half the children said they read newspapers at least occasionally. About one in four (26 per cent) claimed to read one fairly often. The same proportion (32 per cent) and one-quarter (24 per cent) of

For example, children who claimed often to watch films and television programmes on their VCR were no more likely to have played video games, used teletext and a cassette player with earphones, or were more likely to have been to the cinema recently. Children who regularly played computer games were slightly more likely to read newspapers and magazines, and to use a video recorder, but were also more likely to have been to the cinema recently. Children who were less likely to read comics were slightly more likely to use a video recorder, but were also more likely to have been to the cinema recently. Children who were less likely to read comics were slightly more likely to use a video recorder, but were also more likely to have been to the cinema recently.

Our more detailed work on media ownership and use, however, is not yet complete. Displacement can occur and does, we believe, when a new medium provides the same gratification as old one, but in a more accessible form. For instance, although television viewing was not significantly more popular than reading newspapers, books, comics, magazines and newspapers, children who watched more TV drama read fewer newspapers. In this multi-media era, children are learning to use the unique benefits and gratifications that can be derived from each media and divide their time between the many that are available, according to their personal needs and wishes.

Barrie Gunter is Senior Research Officer at the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Bradley Greenberg is Professor of Communications, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

A drug education pack

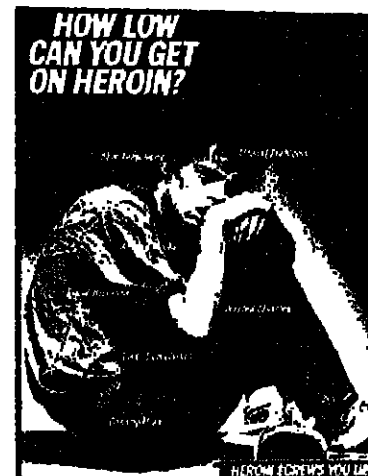
Blockbuster

LIZ SWINDEN

Drugwatch
VHS £28.75
BBC Enterprises Ltd, Education and Training Sales, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT.

In 1985 the BBC produced what can only be called a blockbuster programme on drugs, which at the time seemed to be their attempt to "do" the drug problem. Very much in the style of *That's Life* and hosted by, among others, the ubiquitous Esther Rantzen, *Drugwatch* looked at the range of illegal drugs, drug users and their problems, how to give up, stopping the pushers and drug education in schools. They rounded all this off with personal endorsements by the Princess of Wales and a host of other celebrities, and then proceeded to give us periodic "updates" weeks later, with the latest news of the progress or otherwise of various addicts and their families who had appeared on the programme.

Now BBC Education and Training has come up with a video-based information pack "to help those at risk", as the publicity leaflet states. (At risk of what, one wonders?) The videocassette is a compilation from the original programme, lasts 58 minutes and has four sections: "Getting Started" (the illegal drugs, what they are, what effects they have, etc); "Getting Hooked" (addiction, what it is and the problems it creates); "Getting Out" (help and treatment available); and "Preventing It All" (educational schemes in schools, parent groups in America). Just as the original pro-



programme was a patchwork of approaches and tried to be "all things to all people", this pack seems to be simply a re-mixed mini-version but with an "educational" label.

Let us suppose that it can be used in an educational way. Who would benefit most from seeing it? Certainly the teacher's notes assume that it will be used in the classroom with young people, although the promotional leaflet talks of the video as explaining "the realities of drug abuse to parents" and offering "practical help to teachers". These are probably the two groups I might consider using *Drugwatch* with, if only to provide them with factual information about illegal drugs (the "Getting Started" section) and to give a starting-point for discussion on methods of drug education ("Preventing It All").

As for using it with young people themselves, I would advise teachers to

look elsewhere for video material, but maybe to use the notes as a basis for discussion. The video is strongly slanted towards illegal drugs; indeed, there is scarcely a mention of the fact that we are a drug-taking society, using coffee, tea, aspirin, valium, alcohol and tobacco as well as heroin and cocaine. Similarly, there is a strong emphasis on the plight of drug users and their families.

Few could be unsympathetic to the mother of Melanie, whose harrowing story climaxes with her saying to camera in faltering tones, "I don't think I'm going to live to be 20". When I first saw this on the original programme, I have to admit that I shed a tear for Melanie, but how useful a response is it? Showing emotion-laden snippets like that to young people is simply reinforcing the classic stereotype of the drug addict, which is just not typical. So the *Drugwatch* approach to drugs is very much along the lines of the current DHSS media campaign with its message that "Heroin Screws You Up". Whether you use the *Drugwatch* material at all, really comes down to how you perceive drug education in schools. Do we treat it as a separate topic, simply done as a response to the current panic about hard drugs, or is it better to include a consideration of substance-misuse, in its widest sense, in an integrated programme of personal, social and health education?

The *Drugwatch* pack simply does not hold a candle to a number of other sets of material currently available, most notably the *Double Take* video package (ISDD/DHSS), which should by now be in most secondary schools. For *To Change* (Tadacore) or *Work Related Education on Alcohol and Drugs* (ISDD).

Home economics programmes

Food, food, glorious food

DEIRDRE DEE

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Trotman & Company Ltd, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UA.

Decisions concerning food choice present the individual with a maze of possibilities which can be overwhelming. The increasing complexity of modern life makes the strategies on which to make the right selection more difficult. *Good Enough to Eat* is a straightforward, two-part, well researched and presented video examining the main causes of the food dilemmas in which we so often find ourselves. It forms an excellent introduction to the triumphs of food technology and its principles.

Part 1 begins by reminding us that children are eating and drinking things that our grandparents never knew, and that our investigation follows from the question that although these processed foods and drinks are popular, are they good enough to eat? The web that is woven between the consumer and the

food industry is fascinating and much insight is given as to how we, the public, have become separated from the process of food manufacture. Leading figures in the food industry and the food-related academic world present their promotions and concerns respectively. Coverage is also given to the place and reality of government protection.

Part 2 continues the exploration and looks specifically at the very limited knowledge there is relating to the long- and short-term effects of additives on the body. Case studies are given and the problems of quantifying this evidence. The protection now afforded to baby foods and the lead that certain shops and food manufacturers are taking in response to consumer pressure for additive free foods is also examined. Hence it concludes, by implication, how consumer pressure can be exerted more effectively. This is a first-class video for more able fifth and sixth form pupils.

The *Foodstore* has been compiled as the result of much deliberation by a group of "experts" to assist the campaign to encourage healthy eating, a balanced diet, and realistic view of the role of the snack meal as part of today's eating patterns among school pupils. The format adopted in each edition is very similar but age-group related, and the primary content may form a useful basis for work with the less able child in the secondary sphere.

Each package is divided into five programmes covering a variety of subject matter from Energy from Food and a Balanced Diet, Food around the World, The British Diet, and Eating Patterns to Food Processing.

The video, it is suggested, should form the introduction to each programme of work. The precise nature of work that follows from this is up to the individual teacher. However, the teachers' notes are a very sound resource as they list the main points shown, exemplify the obvious omissions that occur, in only five to six

minutes' viewing, list other sources from which the themes could be developed, and suggest related reading matter and some ideas for classwork. The work cards are equally well presented and contain many useful ideas to reinforce the theoretical aspects of the topics. There is only one suggested practical assignment and this is in the primary package — a welcome change.

The potato crisp, and naturally its assets, forms a useful contribution to the pack and the last video programme, in both editions, shows children at work in a crisp factory.

These editions are certainly to be recommended, particularly as a storehouse for ideas which will help contribute to the above campaign.

The *Food, Family and Homecare* video has been developed to assist the teaching of various aspects of the GCSE syllabus. Each of the listed sections lasts between 14 and 20 minutes, and a brief synopsis of the main areas plus back-up literature from the sponsoring companies is included.

"Cooking with Edam" is particularly useful in helping pupils to understand the impact of technology on food production. The traditional method of making cheese is contrasted with production methods in the factory, and the place of Edam in the diet is related and a variety of recipes are demonstrated.

"Putting Hygiene into Action" is primarily a dialogue between a microbiologist and a young man, the latter being made more aware, during the tour of her home, of the need for good hygiene and hygiene practices. "A Trout for All Seasons" illustrates the application of knowledge in the existing processes involved in fish farming. The virtues of trout in the diet are given and some interesting recipes.

Each of the above has its use but it must be remembered that they only claim to assist our work. Hence previous preparation is required if they are to be incorporated meaningfully.

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'The Taxman' might seem an unlikely subject for a schools video. But the Inland Revenue's entertaining mix of live films, cartoons and graphics puts over information vital to the school leaver.

The video aims to dispel the traditional image of the taxman, by showing that 'he' is an ordinary human being who is there to give help and advice. It also explains, in simple and humorous ways, the historical background to taxes, why they are needed today, and how the PAYE system works.

'The Taxman' costs £8.50 and comes in VHS or Betamax format. A variety of other resources are also available, some free of charge. Although aimed mainly at 14-16 year olds, the material can be used for other age groups and for a number of subjects. Write for a brochure to: Inland Revenue Education Service, PO Box 16, Wetherby, W Yorkshire LS23 7EH.

CORNWALL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There is a Removal Expenses Scheme for teachers taking up permanent appointments from outside the County.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

Budehaven School, Valley Road, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8DQ. Group 11. NOR 952. Sixth Form of 112.

Head of Home Economics: Scale 2

Required for January 1987, head of Home Economics at this seaside comprehensive school. A broad-based foundation course operates for all pupils up to 14; the Southern Examining Groups 'Home Economics: Family, Home and Food' GCSE course from 14-16; with Advanced courses in Food and Fabrics plus C.P.V.E. and general courses beyond that. Ability to teach in all these areas, including Health Education is essential. The school is split-site, but by September 1987 all Home Economics will be taught in new, purpose-built accommodation as the school moves to one site, and the opportunity will exist for the establishment of an exemplary department where practice matches the most recent thinking. Application forms/further details from the Headteacher at the school, on receipt of SAE.

Mounts Bay School, Boscaithorne Lane, Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 3JT. Group 10. NOR 900.

Mathematics: Scale 1

Required for January 1987, a well-qualified and experienced teacher of Mathematics to share in the teaching of the subject across the ability range. Application forms/further details from the Headteacher at the school, on receipt of SAE.

Richard Lander School, Tresawls Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3LF. Group 12. NOR 1531. Sixth Form of 354.

Mathematics: Scale 1

Required for January 1987, a well-qualified teacher of Mathematics who must be prepared to teach throughout the school up to and including 'A' level. Write in the first instance to the Headteacher, enclosing C.V. and stamped addressed envelope for application form and further details.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Treloweth C.P. Junior & Infant School, Broadlane, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3JL. Group 3.

Scale 1

Required from 1st January 1987, a teacher for Infants. Candidates should practice an integrated approach to teaching and preference will be given to one who can offer specialisation in one or more areas of the curriculum and who would welcome the opportunity to influence its development throughout the school. Application forms/further details from the District Clerk, District Education Office, Pendennis Road, Camborne, TR14 7GD, on receipt of SAE.

PRIMARY HEADSHIP

Trewidland C.P. Junior & Infant School, St Keyne, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 4SJ. Group 1.

Available from Summer Term 1987.

Closing Date 24th October, 1986. Application forms and further details are available on receipt of SAE (Footslop) from the Secretary for Education (Schools Section), County Hall, Truro, Cornwall. TR1 3BA.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NORTH WEST KENT AREA

Downs School,
Green Street Green Road,
Dartford, Kent DA1 1QE

Telephone: Dartford 28635/6/7
Roll 1300 (Mixed) 11-18 Wide Ability

This school has vacancies from January for the following teachers:

Mathematics	Scale 3
Mathematics	Scale 2
Science	Possibly Scale 2
CDT	Scale 2
PE	Scale 2
English/French	Scale 1

Pleasant site on outskirts of Dartford with easy access to London and Kent coast and countryside.

Application to the Headmaster with full C.V., age, and names of two referees.

Closing date: 17 October 1986.



Social Studies

Scale 1 Posts

AVON COUNTY COUNCIL
BRISTOL GREEN SCHOOL
Bristol Lane, Yate, Bristol BS17 7AA

Required from 1st January 1987, a teacher of Social Studies to work with the Humanities Department. An enthusiastic teacher wanted to join the Humanities team with this developing comprehensive school. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

Avon as an Equal Opportunity employer considers applications on their merits, regardless of sex, race, disability, or sexual orientation. (32847) 135088

Speech and Drama

Heads of Department

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
11-16 Years

Well-qualified and experienced teacher required for January 1987. Initially some teaching of a subsidiary subject will be necessary.

Stamped addressed envelope for application form and further details to Area Education Office, Seaside Lane, Eastington, Peterlee, Co. Durham. Closing date for receipt of application: 24th October 1986. (328936) 135214

Scale 2 Posts and above

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
MILTON KEYNES AREA
Equal Opportunity Employer

Required for January 1987, a teacher in charge of Drama, Scale 2, to teach the subject to all pupils in the school. The school is hoping to develop a co-ordinating role in the performing arts and the successful applicant would be able to develop his/her skills in a broad range of activities. The school has a purpose-built drama studio.

Applicants with removal expenses and rented housing may be available in approved cases and there is a wide range of housing to buy in the area. Apply by letter to the Headteacher, E. Corrin, M.A., giving full curriculum vitae, age, and the names and addresses of two referees. (32907) 135220

REDBRIDGE

LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE
REDBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Pleasant site with main advertisement under 'Scale 1' post 135220 and above. (32643) 135220

WILTSHIRE

DORSET SECONDARY SCHOOL
St. Paul's Drive,
Covilham, Swindon SN2 5DA

Head Teacher: Miss J.E. Smith

11-16 Co-educational Comprehensive School

N.O.R. 1922

Required January 1987, to work with the Humanities Department. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

Avon as an Equal Opportunity employer considers applications on their merits, regardless of sex, race, disability, or sexual orientation. (32847) 135088

Application forms and further details are available on receipt of SAE (Footslop) from the Secretary for Education (Schools Section), County Hall, Truro, Cornwall. TR1 3BA.

WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

TEACHER IN CHARGE OF COMMUNITY ARTS

Scale 2

Required from 1st January 1987, due to promotion, at Pool Mayon Community School, Castle Road, Walsall, West Midlands, an 11-18 mixed school. The current teacher for this post is an experienced teacher within the English Faculty and an able administrator. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

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HARROW EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CANONS HIGH SCHOOL
Sheldon Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 6AN

Tel: 01-952 1614/553 8502

Part-time (0.6) teacher of Drama (Scale 1) required from January 1987. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

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Avon as an Equal Opportunity employer considers applications on their merits, regardless of sex, race, disability, or sexual orientation. (32847) 135088

Other than by Subject Classification

Heads of Department

HARROW EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HATCH END ROAD
Hatch End, Harrow, Middlesex HA9 7AA

An energetic and enthusiastic teacher of Drama (Scale 1) required from January 1987. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

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Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

SECONDARY OTHER THAN BY SUBJECT

Scale 1 Posts

BURY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Geography (Scale 1) Temporary appointment for 1st January 1987. The post involves a major contribution to L6/L16 A-Level Sociology teaching, teaching a Humanities GCSE course and a Lower School Humanities course taken by all pupils in Years 9-10.

Further details from and letters of application to the Headteacher immediately, giving full C.V., age, and names of two referees, enclosing SAE.

Avon as an Equal Opportunity employer considers applications on their merits, regardless of sex, race, disability, or sexual orientation. (32847) 135088

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ale 3 is available for
successful teaching
school. Alternatively
ffered to a recently
the profession who
successful teaching
ll at college.
School Secretary.
to the Headmaster;
(5227)

Other than by Subject
Classification

Other Assistants

ESSEX
PARK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
(Independent Grammar School)
with Preparatory Department
specialising in small classes.
Required for January 1987.
Full time teacher of GEOGRAPHY
to 'A' level.
Government
Salary according to experience
and qualifications.
Apply to: Mrs. P. P. Lambert, B.A. (Hons.), Head-
mistress, Park School for
Girls, Essex IG1 4RS. (05498)
185624

LONDON WC1
Required: ideally experienced
teacher for P7/P8 posts to teach
'A' level Statistics, Maths
& 'O' level Physics and Com-
puter Studies.
For interview please tele-
phone the Registrar or write
Central C Curriculum Vitae,
199, 8 Barbican St., London
EC2A 4PU. Tel: 01-578 6622.
(Opposite Russell Square Sta-
tion). (35857) 185634

OXFORDSHIRE
ST. HUGH'S SCHOOL
Carew Manor, Faringdon,
Oxon. SN7 8JL.
L.A.P.S. Boarding - Day Co-ed.
Religious, Catholic, qualified teacher
required for January 1987
(or, if necessary, April) to take
charge of six classes in the
preparatory department.
Experience in the field of
religion is essential. The
ability to offer skilled help
in some of the following: Dis-
cipline, Music, Games, P.E.
and Supervision. Non-
resident. Salary commensurate
with experience.
Brief letters of application
should be sent with a full C.V.
and names and addresses of
three referees to: The Head-
master. (35865) 185624

THE VALE SCHOOL

HEAD TEACHER

Applications are invited for the post of
which will become vacant in April 1987.
The school is situated in South Kensington and
is a co-educational Preparatory school taking
girls up to 11 years of age and boys to 8½ years.
Salary c. £12,000.

Please apply with C.V. to:
Mrs. H. Harper,
3 Eaton Gate,
London, S.W.1.

PRINCE'S MEAD SCHOOL

WINCHESTER

HEADSHIP

On the retirement of the present Headmistress,
applications from Teachers with experience of
Independent Schools are invited for this position.
Burnham Scale salary Group 3 effective 1st September
1987.

Prince's Mead, now a Charitable Trust, was established in
1949. It is a Day Preparatory School of over 200 pupils.
Girls from 4-11 and Boys from 4-8.
Applications should be handwritten, accompanied by a
Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of two
references, and sent by 31st October 1986 to the Secretary
to the Board of Governors.

Prince's Mead School Trust
43 Edgar Road
Winchester, SO22 8TN
Hampshire.

Preparatory Schools

Headships

DURHAM
CHAPEL CUM GRAVE
HEAD OF SCHOOL
The Governors of Durham
School invite applications for
this post.
Now School is an IAPS Boys'
Preparatory School of about 100
boarders and day boys, prepar-
ing for entry to both Durham
School and other schools. The
appointment may be taken up
in either April or September
1987.
Further information and ap-
plication form may be obtained
from the Clerk to the School
Board, Durham DLI 3ET.
Last date for receiving ap-
plications is 24th October
1986. (35853) 200010

SURREY
CLAREMONT FAN COURT
SCHOOL
Claremont Drive, Esher,
Surrey KT10 9LJ.
Tel: 01-358 8784.
An independent co-
educational day and boarding
school. Applications are invited for
the post of HEAD OF THE JUNIOR
SCHOOL.
The Headmaster will have
effect from January 1st, 1987.
The successful candidate must be a member
of the Mother Church of the
First Church of Christ, Scien-
tist, in Esher, Surrey, and be
able to offer a genuine inter-
est in the school's religious
life. The Headmaster has
150 boys and girls in the
age range 3 to 8.
Salary commensurate with
experience.
Please apply with C.V. to the
principal. (35864) 200010

SURREY
Wanted for September 1987 by
Rivers Day Preparatory
School, a qualified teacher of
English with experience in
Common Entrance and Setu-
ment. The successful candidate
should be aged 35-40, and
have a minimum of 10 years
experience in the field of
English. The successful candi-
date will be expected to take
charge of the school's religious
life. The Headmaster has
150 boys and girls in the
age range 3 to 8.
Salary commensurate with
experience.
Please apply with C.V. to the
principal. (35864) 200010

DEVON
WOLVERHAMPTON HILL SCHOOL
Wolverhampton Hill School,
Newton Abbot.
Required for January 1987.
A member of staff to teach En-
glish and Mathematics. The
successful candidate should be
able to offer a genuine inter-
est in the school's religious
life. The Headmaster has
150 boys and girls in the
age range 3 to 8.
Salary commensurate with
experience.
Please apply with C.V. to the
principal. (35864) 200010

DORSET
Required for January 1987
a qualified teacher for a
class of 30-40 year olds. Desir-
able to have experience in
English and Mathematics. The
successful candidate should be
able to offer a genuine inter-
est in the school's religious
life. The Headmaster has
150 boys and girls in the
age range 3 to 8.
Salary commensurate with
experience.
Please apply with C.V. to the
principal. (35864) 200010

DURHAM
DURHAM CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL
Durham.
Required for January 1987.
A member of staff to teach En-
glish and Mathematics. The
successful candidate should be
able to offer a genuine inter-
est in the school's religious
life. The Headmaster has
150 boys and girls in the
age range 3 to 8.
Salary commensurate with
experience.
Please apply with C.V. to the
principal. (35864) 200010

WEST SUSSEX
BROADWATER MANOR
SCHOOL
Broadwater Road, Worthing
BN14 8BU.
Required for September 1987.
Headteacher for co-
educational day Preparatory
and Pre-Preparatory School.
Open to qualified graduates
aged 30-45 years with expe-
rience in a similar school. Head-
master's duties include: over-
sight of the school's religious
life, and the school's general
administration. Salary ac-
cording to experience and qualifi-
cations. Apply to: The Head-
master, Broadwater Manor
School, Broadwater Road,
Worthing BN14 8BU. (01243)
200010

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GEORGE
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Geography
Heads of Department
KENT
ROSE HILL SCHOOL
Culverden, Kent, TN14 9BY.
Required for January 1987
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Mathematics
Heads of Department
YORK
ST. OLAV'S
The Junior School of St. Olav's,
Claydon Road, York YO1 1JZ.
Required for January 1987
a teacher for Mathematics
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Pastoral
Heads of Department
CLEVELAND
RESIDENT HOUSEMASTER
Resident Housemaster for
the Junior School of St. Olav's,
Claydon Road, York YO1 1JZ.
Required for January 1987
a teacher for Pastoral
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**Other than by Subject
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Heads of Department
ABERDEENSHIRE
BLAIRMORE SCHOOL
Blairmore School, Aberdeen.
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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & COMPUTING STUDIES

DEPUTY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT/SENIOR LECTURER

This vacancy arises from the promotion of the previous post-holder to a Head of Department. It is a key post providing an excellent opportunity to play a major part in the organisation and development of a progressive and expanding department.

The person appointed will assist the Head of Department in the management and co-ordination of the work of the department. Responsibilities will also include marketing and publicity.

There is flexibility in the teaching duties which may be in any area of business or business computing, although the ability to offer Finance/Accounting would be helpful.

LECTURER GRADE I

To teach on BTEC and secretarial courses: Subjects to include Organisation in its Environment, Finance and Accounting (the latter to include computer applications).

LECTURER GRADE I

(One year, fixed term, renewable.)
To teach secretarial skills on Secretarial and BTEC courses. Ability to offer Information processing an advantage.

DEPARTMENT OF HOTEL & CATERING, HAIRDRESSING & TOURISM

LECTURER GRADE I

(One year, fixed term, renewable.)
To teach Accommodation Services on City & Guilds 708, BTEC Diploma and other relevant courses.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING

LECTURER GRADE II

To take responsibility for and to teach Building Science and Materials to BTEC Building Studies, CG Craft and related courses. Suitably qualified and experienced candidates should be prepared to develop the teaching of the subject within the College.

LECTURER GRADE I

To teach Building Construction and allied subjects to BTEC and Craft students. Candidates able to offer the ability to teach Brickwork or Electrical Installation theory and practical would be preferred.

REIGATE SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

LECTURER GRADE I

To teach on the newly created Design Diploma, specialising in Lettering, Calligraphy and Signwork. Candidates should be experienced in current design applications of letterforms ranging from creative lettering and calligraphy for reproduction to signwork, including painted and screened work and acrylic and neon applications.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

LECTURER GRADE I

(One year, fixed term, renewable.)
To contribute to the teaching of Health Studies and Child Care on range of courses, including NNEB Nursery and YTS Community Care. Applicants should preferably be qualified teachers with nursing experience and hold a qualification as a Health Visitor.

EITHER

LECTURER GRADE I

(One year, fixed term, renewable.)
To teach English and Communications on a range of courses across the college, including craft level, caring courses and GCE 'O' Level (Mode 3) and 'A' Level. The ability to contribute to the teaching of Media Studies and/or Drama would be an advantage.

OR

LECTURER GRADE II

To develop and coordinate the provision of English and Communications teaching and resources, both within the department (including a large entry 'O' Level (Mode 3) and AEB 'A' Level (Mode 3)) and as a service to other departments. This post will require highly developed organisational skills as well as energy and patience from the successful applicant.

Salaries (incl. allowances):
SL £12897-£16102-£18155
LI £8877-£13938
LI £7125-£12147-£13938

It is required to fill all posts above by 1 January 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Closing date: 14 days after the publication of this advertisement.

Application forms and further details from the Staff Office, East Surrey College, Gattin Point Road, Surrey GU24 0JX. Tel: Redhill 72611.

COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

continued

ESSEX

COLCHESTER INSTITUTE

The large college of further and higher education invites applications for the post of:

LECTURER IN LEISURE AND RECREATION STUDIES

To teach on various Leisure and Recreation courses with experience of the L & R courses. Applicants should have a degree or equivalent qualifications in Physical Education, Leisure Studies, or a related subject.

LECTURER IN TROWEL TEACHING

To work on Brickwork, YTS and related courses at all levels.

ASSOCIATE LECTURER (HALF FULL-TIME HOURS)

To teach on Computing and Software Applications courses.

Particulars obtainable from the Director, Colchester Institute, Essex CO3 3JQ. Tel: 0206 570271.

Closing date: Friday 17 October 1986. 220026

ESSEX

CHELMSFORD COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Dovalde, Moulton Street, Chelmsford CM2 0JQ

Applications are invited for the following posts:

LECTURER GRADE II IN BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

To teach Accounting and at least two of the following: Costing, Economics, Information Technology, Statistics and Taxation within the Dept. of Business Studies.

LECTURER GRADE I IN SECRETARIAL STUDIES

To teach secretarial subjects within the Dept. of Secretarial Studies.

LECTURER GRADE I IN ELECTRONIC SUBJECTS

To teach Electronics and related studies within the Department of Engineering.

LECTURER GRADE I IN SCIENCE

To teach biological sciences on a range of courses from G.C.E. 'O' Level to H.N.C. within the Science Department.

Salaries: Lecturer Grade II £5,595-£13,855 p.a., Lecturer Grade I £6,843-£15,865 p.a. on appointment, rising eventually to £13,855.

Further details of ALL the above posts, together with application forms, may be obtained by sending a stamped and addressed envelope to the PRINCIPAL of the College.

Closing date: Friday, 17th October, 1986. 220026

GLoucestershire

ST ALBANS COLLEGE

Required for January 1987. Applications for the post of:

LECTURER IN COMMUNITY CARE

To teach on the newly created Design Diploma, specialising in Lettering, Calligraphy and Signwork. Candidates should be experienced in current design applications of letterforms ranging from creative lettering and calligraphy for reproduction to signwork, including painted and screened work and acrylic and neon applications.

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GWYNEDD

COUNCIL

LECTURER IN SECRETARIAL STUDIES

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THE HERTS EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

continued

REDFORDSHIRE

WATFORD COLLEGE

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LECTURER II

ENSEX
A COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH HILL COLLEGE
FALGOUT ROAD, ENSEX
Calicut District, Kerala
Pin-686 552 615
Tel: 0983 8533951
FAX: 0983 8533952
**TECHNICAL EDUCATION
DIVISION - HASSAN SECTION**
To be appointed w.e.f. 1
January 1987

1. **LECTURER I** - to be Head of Section and directly responsible to Head of Section for the running of the Section and to teaching in it.

2. **LECTURER II** - to support the Head of Section and act as Tutor to one or more colleges.

The Section offers the RTE National Diploma in Fashion Designing, the ETEAC National course as well as making input to the BTEC National

(02384)

The closing date for receipt of applications for terms in the 1987/88 session will be Tuesday 14th July 1987. (8221)

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE POLYTECHNIC DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the North Staffordshire Polytechnic following the retirement of Dr. J.F. Dickenson. Present Salary £93,726. Details of the post and application forms can be obtained from the Chief Education Officer (F.E.), Education Office, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH. Closing date 24th October, 1986. Trade Union Membership is encouraged. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

(02851)



THE POLYTECHNIC WOLVERHAMPTON

PUBLICITY SERVICES OFFICER

Salary Scale - SO1 £9,975 - £10,638 (pay award pending)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Publicity Services Officer. This appointment calls for candidates with sound professional and managerial experience in a related discipline who can demonstrate the essential qualities of creativity, imagination, flair and literacy in this exciting and demanding post. A degree or equivalent qualification would be an advantage.

Closing date for applications: Fourteen days after appearance of advertisement.

Further details and application form from The Personnel Office, The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB or telephone Wolverhampton (0902) 710854 (ansaphone).

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic or racial origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation or responsibility for dependants.

(0207)

HARROW COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the following vacancies:

LECTURER I QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Candidates should have an appreciation of the role of quantitative methods and computing in a variety of scientific and engineering applications. Ideally the person appointed should have relevant industrial and/or teaching experience.

It would be an advantage for applicants to have a professional teaching qualification, but in-service training can be provided.

LECTURER I COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING (PRODUCTION)

Candidates need to possess a strong bias towards production processes and be conversant with computer aided engineering techniques. The person appointed will teach both theory and practice of subjects of the C & A and B/TEC courses, and assist in the continued expansion of our computer aided engineering courses.

LECTURER I MICROELECTRONICS

Candidates should have experience in one or more of the following areas: Local and remote communications; Architecture of 16 and 32 bit processors; Structured high and low level programming; Real-time systems; Peripheral design and control; Fault-finding and maintenance; and Knowledge-based systems and Artificial Intelligence.

Salary Scale Lecturer I £8,843 to £11,865 + London Weighting £1,110 p.a.

All posts will be available from 1st January 1987 or earlier if the successful candidate is available.

Further details and application forms are available from the Principal, Harrow College of Higher Education, Northwick Park, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3TP. Telephone 01-864 5422; Ext. 231 or 232. Application to be returned within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

Harrow is an Equal Opportunity Employer. TMS/0215633

(0201)

Polytechnics

Other Appointments

LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

L1/SL IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

£8,595 - £15,873

This is a permanent post available from January 1987, to join a team of five psychologists who contribute to the wide range of initial and in-service teacher training courses in the Department.

Applications are invited from candidates with academic qualifications in psychology, school teaching experience (primary, secondary), and a substantial involvement in research.

Experience as an LEA Education Psychologist or work with children with special needs could be an advantage.

For further particulars and an application form contact the Personnel Office, Liverpool Polytechnic, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SK (Tel: 051-207 3581). Ext. 251/25191 to whom applications must be returned not later than 17th October, 1986.

Liverpool Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, sex, marital status or disability. (02789) 260026

Colleges of Higher Education

Other Appointments

GRAMPIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL ABERDEEN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

LECTURER IN SECRETARIAL STUDIES

Applicants should possess a Diploma, Diploma in Commerce or equivalent qualifications in Secretarial Studies.

Involves teaching SCOT-VET Modules in Short-hand, Typing, Audio Typing and Word Processing.

Salary Scale £9,039 - £15,384

Application forms from Director of Education, FE and Admin. Staffing, Graham House, 211/1 with whom applications (3 copies) should be returned by October 20. 340026 (02829)

For further details and application form contact the Personnel Office, The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB or telephone Wolverhampton (0902) 710854 (ansaphone).

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic or racial origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation or responsibility for dependants.

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Closing date for applications: Fourteen days after appearance of advertisement.

CHESTER COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

DEAN OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES HEAD OF DEPARTMENT GRADE V (Salary £16,174 to £26,136 under review)

This post will become vacant from 1st January 1987, on the retirement of the present holder. The Department has a staff of 22, and teaches the 4-year B.Ed. Honours degree of the University of Liverpool, P.G.C.E. Program (from September 1987), M.Ed., and a wide range of Diplomas.

Applicants should be qualified teachers with substantial and successful school experience, preferably in the Primary/Middle. Lecturing and research experience is required with evidence of administrative ability. The person appointed will join the management team of the College.

LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Salary £8,595 - £15,873)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates for the above post, available from 1st January, 1987. The lecturer appointed will assist in the development of the Honours course mainly in the area of Historical and Comparative Sports Studies but ability to contribute to Social Psychology would also be an advantage. Ability in a range of practical areas, particularly athletics and netball desirable.

Further details and applications for both posts from the Principal, Chester College of Higher Education, Chape Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ to be returned by 10th October, 1986.

For further details and application form contact the Personnel Office, Liverpool Polytechnic, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SK (Tel: 051-207 3581). Ext. 251/25191 to whom applications must be returned not later than 17th October, 1986.

Liverpool Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, sex, marital status or disability. (02789) 260026

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic or racial origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation or responsibility for dependants.

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COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

DEAN OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES HEAD OF DEPARTMENT GRADE V (Salary £16,174 to £26,136 under review)

This post will become vacant from 1st January 1987, on the retirement of the present holder. The Department has a staff of 22, and teaches the 4-year B.Ed. Honours degree of the University of Liverpool, P.G.C.E. Program (from September 1987), M.Ed., and a wide range of Diplomas.

Applicants should be qualified teachers with substantial and successful school experience, preferably in the Primary/Middle. Lecturing and research experience is required with evidence of administrative ability. The person appointed will join the management team of the College.

LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Salary £8,595 - £15,873)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates for the above post, available from 1st January, 1987. The lecturer appointed will assist in the development of the Honours course mainly in the area of Historical and Comparative Sports Studies but ability to contribute to Social Psychology would also be an advantage. Ability in a range of practical areas, particularly athletics and netball desirable.

Further details and applications for both posts from the Principal, Chester College of Higher Education, Chape Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ to be returned by 10th October, 1986.

For further details and application form contact the Personnel Office, Liverpool Polytechnic, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SK (Tel: 051-207 3581). Ext. 251/25191 to whom applications must be returned not later than 17th October, 1986.

Liverpool Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, sex, marital status or disability. (02789) 260026

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic or racial origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation or responsibility for dependants.

Closing date for applications: Fourteen days after appearance of advertisement.

Further details and application form from The Personnel Office, The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB or telephone Wolverhampton (0902) 710854 (ansaphone).

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic or racial origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation or responsibility for dependants.

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**ESSEX
COUNTY COUNCIL**
WARDEN: FRINTON,
WALTON AND THORPE-
LE-SKOE

Suitable qualified candidates are invited to apply for the above post in their own right or as a member of the staff of a local authority or other public body.

The person appointed will be directly responsible for the organisation and management of the youth and community services in the area, and will act in an advisory capacity to the local authority.

Applicants should ideally have had experience in Youth & Community Work and Adult Education.

Salary/Grade: Burnham P 10,958 - £13,945 per annum.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the County Council, Youth & Community Services, Thameside House, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2JL.

Closing date for applications: 17th October 1988. (97866)

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YOUTH AND
COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER -
SOULSBURY H.T. GROUP 7**

£14,850-£16,254 + £728 Outer London Allowance

The Youth and Community Education Service in Hillingdon is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person from the field of Youth and Community work to fill the above vacancy.

The service in Hillingdon has a good provision of opportunities for young people and community groups based on Social Education principles within a statutory and voluntary partnership. The person appointed will deputise for the Principal Officer, but will also have a major responsibility for the formulation and application of a Staff Development Policy and for Social Education Curriculum Development work in the Youth and Community Education Service.

For informal discussions concerning the post, please contact Marjory Heister, Principal Youth and Community Education Officer on Uxbridge 50487. Further details and an application form quoting reference E/26/87X may be obtained from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3UW.

Telephone Uxbridge 50589 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date 17 October 1988. (04705)

Hillingdon

London Borough of

Somerset County Council

**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION OFFICER
(Mendip)**

Somerset County Council is undertaking a major expansion of its Community Education Service. Applications are invited for this key post which arises from the promotion of the existing postholder to a County Officer position elsewhere. The successful applicant will be responsible to the Education Officer (Community Education) for a wide range of managerial, developmental and advisory functions within the Mendip area. He/she will also be expected to work as part of a County wide team.

We are looking for a person with a proven track record in Community Education. The ability to lead and co-ordinate a diverse and varied Area Team is essential.

Salary scale: Head of Department Grade II, £14,136 - £15,933 (Under Review).

Application form and details (see 9" x 4" min) from the Staffing (T) Section, Education Department, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY. Closing date: 15th October 1988. (9856)

ITEL Harlow

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

PROGRAMMING/INTERFACING/
CONTROL APPLICATIONS

£10,311 per annum.

Harlow ITEL, a well-equipped 45-place Information Technology Centre offering high quality YTS and adult training in new technology, urgently requires an experienced trainer to supervise the interfacing and control section. This post would appeal equally to (a) teachers or trainers with a background in electronics and some knowledge of programming in BASIC/assembly language and (b) someone with programming experience in the above (and other) languages, and an interest in developing interface and control techniques on BBC microcomputers.

Full details and application forms from: The Manager, Harlow ITEL, Springfield, Hooton Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 1TH. Tel: (0278) 448556.

Closing date for applications: 15 October 1988.

**SOMERSET
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**UNDER FIVES
DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

BURNHAM SCALE 3
WITHIN THE FIVE
CONDITIONS

The Community Education Service, in conjunction with the Education Department, is establishing a new section of work with the under fives. We are appointing a suitably qualified and experienced candidate who can demonstrate a proven ability to relate and co-operate with a wide range of individuals and organisations. This is particularly important in Somerset where the voluntary sector is the major provider, and where inter-agency co-operation is crucial to the development of the service.

Application forms and further details from the Staffing (T) Section, Education Department, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY. Closing date 15th October 1988. An equal opportunities employer. (32801) 440000

At least 2 years relevant experience is essential.

Salary: £9,726 p.a. £10,377 p.a. inclusive.

Possession of an appropriate qualification in Youth and Community Work would be an advantage.

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE: C 363/G.

CLOSING DATE: 17th October, 1988.

Application form from Personnel Section (Recruitment), Somerset County Council, County Offices, Fodderwick, Bath, BA2 9JL. Tel: 01225 294216 (answerphone 24 hours).

The Council welcomes applications from people of all ethnic groups, race, sex, marital status or disability. (97866) 440000

For further information and application form please write to: The Warden, Methodist Youth Centre, Princeps Avenue, Liverpool, L8 2TP.

Closing date for applications: 20th October 1988. (32958) 440000

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Closing date for applications: 20th October 198

TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT 3.10.86



The
British
Council

BRITISH AEROSPACE
...up where
we belong

Applicants should immediately send c.v. with a telephone number to Dr C. Ferrard, 74 Dublin Street, Edinburgh EH3 6BNP. Interviews will be held in Edinburgh and London at the end of October.

Government of
BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM

k) Business Studies
To teach students taking Business Studies Courses including Data Processing, Accountancy and Management.
Applicants should possess a Bachelor degree in Business Studies/Administration or Commerce or the equivalent qualification in a relevant discipline together with at least 3 years

Closing date for applications – 21st October 1986.

TRAINING OFFICERS

In the design and manufacture of interactive computer graphics systems Intergraph leads the world. Our continued success and rapid expansion has created an urgent need for Training Instructors to help our customers get the best from our 'state of the art' graphics systems.

Working in our superb new office complex overlooking the Wiltshire countryside on the outskirts of Swindon you will be joining a busy and highly professional training

team. You will be running formal courses covering the extensive application of Intergraph systems. If you have the experience you will also be involved in course design and acting as a consultant for customers with special training needs.

You will be a high calibre communicator who is able to translate equipment capability into user reality both quickly and effectively. For this you will need first class teaching skills allied to a solid technical background in either computer science or engineering design.

In return we offer the highly attractive salary and excellent benefits package that you would expect from a world leader.

To apply just write or telephone Alan Boyd, Educational Services Manager, Intergraph (Great Britain) Ltd., Delta Business Park, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 7XP. Tel. (0793) 619999.



INTERGRAPH

Eastern Arts Association/Luton Borough Council
require a

MIME AND THEATRE SKILLS ANIMATEUR

to be based in Luton from January 1987.
Salary on a scale £7,713 - £8,154 (under review).

Write for further information and application form to: The Personnel and Management Services Officer, Personnel Dept, Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ

Closing date for receipt of applications is 30th October 1986.

PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH, HANWELL, LONDON W7

Full-Time R.E. Co-Ordinator

Required for January 1987, or as soon as possible thereafter, a suitably qualified and experienced person to join a team of three priests in an active and thriving parish.

The person appointed would be expected to continue and support the wide and varied catechetical work already in existence, and to have the ability and vision to work with other members of the team and develop parish catechetical to meet the religious education needs of various groups.

Application forms and further details from: Father John Woods, Our Lady and St Joseph's, 52, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell, London W7 3BU.

Closing date Friday 17th October.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Requires an

ADVERTISEMENT SALES EXECUTIVE

Ideally the successful applicant will be aged between 25 to 35, an enthusiastic self-motivated person with proven sales experience although this need not be in the field of media advertising. A high standard of education is also required. As the position entails meeting people at senior level a professional and communicative skills is essential.

Salary will be commensurate with age and experience and a company car will be provided.

Please write at the earliest opportunity to: John Ladbroke, Advertisement Manager, The Times Educational Supplement, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

MISCELLANEOUS

SUMMER TEACHING JOBS IN AMERICA Work on American children's camps, mid June to end August. See ad in this issue. Tel. 01-660000.

TUTOR REQUIRED for evening and weekend tuition in English, Maths, Science, P.C. Experience necessary in teaching. Tel. 01-660000.

Peripatetic Posts

HARROW EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
Education Office, P.O. Box 24, Uxbridge Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1AA. Tel. 01-863 5611, Ext. 2756/2512

Required for January 1987, full-time peripatetic instrumental teacher (Scale 1) of brass (horn, euphonium).

Applications are invited from practising and newly qualified teachers. The Harrow Education Committee is committed to group tuition and is currently establishing links with class music lessons. Regular training provided on going professional development and opportunities exist for performance in schools during the working day. A casual rate of remuneration is payable.

Application forms must be sent to the address by 15.10.86.

Please enclose stamped address envelope.

Outer London Allowance Payable.

HARROW IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. (01-863 5611)

Outdoor Education

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS required for our outdoor education centre. Tel. 01-660000.

ARHYLL
COUNCIL OF DISTRICTS
For January 1987 a teacher of Outdoor Education. Tel. 01-660000.

DEVON
SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION
The professional in Outdoor Education. Tel. 01-660000.

DYED
Instructors required for 1987 season. Tel. 01-660000.

INVERNESS-SHIRE
SKI SCHOOL 1987
Dedicated to winter sports. Tel. 01-660000.

NORTH YORKSHIRE
GRAHAM SCHOOL
Scarborough YO11 6JW. Tel. 01723 66645/12

HAVERHILL NAUTICAL CLUB
11-15 mixed camp schools. Tel. 01-660000.

HILMINGHAM
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ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

BOURNEMOUTH
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